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TORTI STRESSES COOPERATION OF SOUTH ATLANTIC NAVIES

PY130010Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1645 GMT 12 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Jan--"This joint naval organization of South Atlantic navies made up of Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina has been created to coordinate naval action in order to help preserve our American Continent from aggression from the sea through defense of one of the main pillars of our subsistence--maritime traffic generated by our vital need for trade."

This statement was made by the Argentine Navy chief of operations, Vice Adm Julio Torti, during a ceremony in which Vice Adm Marcelo Ramos E. Silva of the Brazilian Navy was sworn in as the new coordinator of the South Atlantic maritime area. The ceremony was held today at the headquarters of the Argentine Navy and was presided over by Navy Commander in Chief Adm Emilio Eduardo Massera.

He added: "Our task in times of peace, which is to coordinate our actions, has allowed us to get better training in the defense of maritime traffic, and this has resulted in a growing economy of means and increased effectiveness. Carrying out this task together, we have learned to know each other and to clearly understand the various attitudes which different navies can have about the same problem."

He went on to say that "I wish to emphasize the great spirit of cooperation shown by all officers who make up the South Atlantic maritime area, a cooperation of which we are well aware. This cooperation has helped us fulfill our duties and reached its crowning point at the recent eighth meeting of local commanders of operational control, where understanding and flexibility of positions was the prevailing attitude during debate, thus facilitating unanimous approval of the recommendations and resolutions which were made."

He concluded by saying: "Admiral Marcelo, by the order of the junta of the commanders in chief of the South Atlantic, I hand over to you the responsibility and honor of this post which you will hold for the next 2 years, together with my best wishes for success."

COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SIGN SEABED TREATY

PA160330Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0216 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 13 Jan (AFP)--The Dominican Republic and Colombia signed an agreement today delimiting their respective marine and submarine areas and establishing the basis for maritime cooperation between the two countries. The agreement states that the citizens of both countries can fish in the agreed areas as long as they do so in a reasonable manner. The countries will also exchange results of research into living resources, especially (?tuna) and other migratory species.

The line and points agreed upon are indicated on Map Number 25000 of the "Defense Mapping Agency of the United States." The document signed by the foreign ministers of Colombia and the Dominican Republic, Indalecio Lievano and Ramon Emilio Jimenez Jr respectively, indicates a scientific research and fishing zone, the limitations of which are included in the navigation terms. Both countries agree to establish strict vigilance in the zone to prevent citizens of other countries from fishing in the area without authorization.

Colombia and the Dominican Republic decided, according to the document signed at the Dominican Foreign Ministry, that the differences that might arise will be solved through diplomatic channels, if possible, before using other peaceful means to resolve differences provided by international law. Foreign Minister Lievano said in a speech that instruments such as the one signed today conform to the commendable job being carried out by the international community to establish in international organizations legal standards that will guarantee sovereignty of the states in their adjacent oceans and continental shelves.

He added that the agreement "strengthens the ties between our peoples and governments in the Caribbean, a sea that can become, depending on our actions, a vacuum to separate us or a broad maritime lane to unite us." Finally, he said that the treaty opens "new horizons for cooperation along paths already cleared of obstacles by the almost imperceptible but effective acts of an old friendship between Colombia and the Dominican Republic."

URUGUAY'S ROVIRA REJECTS CONDITIONS FOR OAS ASSEMBLY

PY1318190Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1441 GMT 13 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Montevideo, 13 Jan--Uruguay will not accept any sort of conditions to be imposed on it in order to be the site of the OAS General Assembly, Foreign Minister Alejandro Rovira affirmed today.

It was reported here yesterday that the United States sets a condition for supporting Uruguay as site for the OAS General Assembly: that this country accept an inspection by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

Alleging that human rights are not respected in Uruguay, the United States is the main opponent to Uruguay's being the site of the General Assembly. Uruguay has already rejected the inspection of the OAS Human Rights Commission on the ground that it is both "tendentious" and "prejediced."

Foreign Minister Rovira said that up until now he had no confirmation that the United States had in fact put forward that condition, but that "Uruguay will by no means agree to make concessions in order to be chosen site of the OAS General Assembly. and that this position is quite clear and not subject to coercion."

He repeated that Uruguay "has been and continues to be the target of an international campaign which intends to show it as a torture chamber," an image which is denied by Uruguay's willingness to be the site of the OAS General Assembly.

He concluded by saying that if the OAS General Assembly is held here, delegates, journalists and anybody who comes along will be able "to see what is the real situation, the climate of peace in which we live, as well as to receive the hospitality and friendship Uruguay always offers."

REPORTS ON NEGOTIATIONS, REACTIONS IN BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE

Videla, Montes Meet

FY131338Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Jan 78 FY

[Text] President Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla met with Foreign Minister Vice Adm Oscar Antonio Montes yesterday in order to discuss pending matters, particularly the current problems with Chile. The meeting lasted for just over 30 minutes.

AFP Reports Marker Destroyed

FY132114Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1923 GMT 13 Jan 78 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan--According to a report published by a progovernment newspaper here today, personnel of the Chilean Navy have destroyed a marker light [baliza] placed by the Argentine Navy on one of the southern islands. The afternoon daily LA RAZON, quoting highly reliable sources, reported that the marker light was placed on either one of the Wollaston Islands, to which Hornos Island belongs, or on Barnevelt or Eveout, small islands located south of the Beagle Channel. According to the newspaper, the incident became known in Buenos Aires a few hours ago and took place somewhere between 25 December, 1977, and 8 January, 1978.

Junta Stresses Its Interest

FY140235Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0200 GMT 14 Jan 78 FY

[Text of communique issued by the Argentine Air Force Command in Buenos Aires on 13 January, 1978]

[Text] The military junta met today at the Libertador building, headquarters of the navy commander in chief. Subjects regarding the arbitral decision on the Beagle Channel and its consequences regarding the islands located south of that geographical area were discussed during the meeting. In this regard, the military junta gave the necessary instructions to assure that all actions taken be directed to reassert the enforcement of Argentine interests in the pertinent area. Present at the meeting were the chiefs of staff of the army, Gen Roberto E. Viola; of the navy, Rear Adm Armando Lambruschini; and of the air force, Brig Gen Omar Domingo Graffigna; Foreign Minister Oscar A. Montes; Gen Osiris Villegas (ret); and the secretaries general of the chiefs of staff, Brig Gen Reynaldo Brignone, Rear Adm Eduardo Fracassi and Brig Gen Basilio Arturo Lami Dozo.

Carvajal Statement Rejected

FY140155Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0150 GMT 14 Jan 78 FY

[Text of communique issued by the Argentine Foreign Ministry in Buenos Aires on 13 January, 1978]

[Text] In relation to a statement issued by Chilean Foreign Minister Patricio Carvajal to the ambassadors accredited to Santiago, that Chile reasserts its right "to all islands, islets and rocks located south of the Beagle Channel and as far as Cape Horn," the Argentine Foreign Ministry just stated to the national and international public that the Argentine Government does not accept any of the terms of that statement, since it mentions territories and waters of undeniable Argentine sovereignty.

Chilean Envoy Meets Montes

PY1314407 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1415 GMT 13 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan--Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes met with Chilean Ambassador Rene Rojas Galdames this morning at San Martine Palace. After the meeting, which was held at 1000, Rojas Galdames reported that he had discussed the Beagle issue with Foreign Minister Montes.

He also denied that he was carrying a note from Chilean Foreign Minister Patricio Carvajal to Foreign Minister Montes and concluded by noting that it is the Argentine foreign minister who should report on their meeting since Montes is the host.

Chilean Proposal Reported

PY1316457 Paris AFP in Spanish 1045 GMT 13 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan--Press sources disclosed here today that a special envoy from the Chilean Government who is carrying a negotiating proposal regarding the Beagle Channel issue between Chile and Argentina arrived in Buenos Aires in the last couple of hours. The envoy, who some Buenos Aires press sources have identified as General Contreras Sepulveda, reportedly arrived yesterday in Buenos Aires in absolute secrecy aboard a commercial flight at the Ezeiza International Airport.

According to informed sources the representative of the Chilean regime headed by President Augusto Pinochet Ugarte will meet today with members of the Argentine Government junta, which is headed by Gen Jorge Rafael Videla.

It seems that this mission will reportedly mean a change of the Chilean position regarding the border dispute, which in the last few days resulted almost in confrontation, making both countries more conciliatory, especially Chile.

This new step taken in the bilateral negotiations was interpreted by Buenos Aires diplomatic experts as a "detente element" in the strong friction which Chile and Argentina have been experiencing in 1978. According to Buenos Aires press sources, General Sepulveda's "new proposals" will have to "soften" both positions, after the strong statement made by Chilean Foreign Minister Patricio Carvajal. The statement made 48 hours ago to the press by the Chilean foreign minister in which he reasserted Chilean sovereignty in the Beagle Channel area in definitive terms, had the effect of "a bucket of cold water" in Buenos Aires military circles.

It is precisely these high-ranking military circles which are following with concern the evolution of the conflict and from where--according to the little that was disclosed to the public--offers and counteroffers regarding the issue are being issued to the Santiago authorities.

Up to now no details about the proposal brought to Buenos Aires by the Chilean junta special envoy has been revealed but important news is expected in the next few hours.

Carvajal's Penetration Charge Rejected

PY131222Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0421 GMT 13 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Jan--The Argentine Foreign Ministry rejected tonight the remarks made by Chilean Foreign Minister Patricio Carvajal, who charged that the Argentine sea fleet penetrated the Beagle Channel zone. The Chilean foreign minister reportedly said that the movement of the Argentine fleet was an act of intrusion into a zone which is under Chilean sovereignty.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry spokesman added that the Argentine ships stationed in the Beagle zone carried out normal operations to join the other naval forces which are participating in the Antarctic summer campaign.

The same source added that the final draft of the note rejecting the British award on the Argentine-Chilean border conflict in the southern zone of the American continent is not yet ready.

Finally, he stated that the arrest of Chilean citizens in southern Argentina is in no way related to the Beagle conflict.

Videla May Cancel Vacation

PY141630Y Buenos Aires Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1500 GMT 14 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpt] It has been unofficially reported that the president of the nation is still in Campo de Mayo. As is known, President Videla intended to resume his vacation--which he interrupted on Wednesday--by going to Chapadmalal late yesterday. Unofficial sources have reported, however, that only some members of his family went to Chapadmalal yesterday. It is believed that the president's stay in Buenos Aires is closely linked to the development of the process stemming from the British award on the Beagle border issue.

Fleet Not in Channel

PY130133Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0115 GMT 13 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 12 Jan--The Argentine naval fleet was not in the Beagle Channel or near it, the Foreign Ministry reported tonight with regard to contrary information from Chile. The ministry reported that our naval movements are normal in that area and for activities related to the Antarctic campaign.

Commander To Inspect Units

PY122252Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 12 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Comodoro Rivadavia--The commander of V Corps headquartered in Bahia Blanca has denied reports that army units in the Patagonia have recently been equipped better than other areas in the country. Major Gen Jose Vaquero arrived at General Mosconi Airport this morning accompanied by high-ranking military officials. He said he is in the Patagonia only to inspect military units. Asked about the coincidence between the timing of his tour and the operations which the navy is conducting in the South Atlantic, he said that his duties were exclusively military during this visit, and that in any case it is only a coincidence. General Vaquero will continue his tour to Pue to Deseado, Rio Gallegos and Ushuaia aboard a turboprop plane. From there he will return to Bahia Blanca.

REPORTS ON HUNGER STRIKE

Siles Salinas To Join Strike

PY121846Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpt] Former president Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas and members of the Bolivia Permanent Assembly for Human Rights stated today that they will join the more than 500 hunger strikers in demand of greater union and political freedom. This is a review by the Latin agency of the present political situation in Bolivia:

The Bolivian Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, a lay organization having the support of the Catholic Church, stated in a communique released to the press today that this extreme decision will be taken in the next few hours if the government does not meet the striker's claims. The organization also announced that (?in that case), a formal request will be sent to the UN Human Rights Commission to send representatives to Bolivia so that they must act as mediators in this conflict.

Former president Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas, whom the strikers appointed as their representative for the negotiations with the government, stated that he will join the hunger strike in the face of this appeal by the Bolivian people. Siles said in a communique: "I respond to the cry of the Bolivian people who are making a claim because of the limited amnesty recently granted, which keeps away thousands of exiles who have been away for over 6 years, and I will join the hunger strike, accompanied by the leaders of the Human Rights Assembly, if the government continues with its inhuman denial. After unsuccessfully filing habeas corpus petitions and after having exhausted all the legal and reasonable means, I will take the path which involves no violence endangering third parties and which represents, for those who adopt it, a just homage paid to achieve the return of Bolivians to the country."

Cardinal Withdraws as Mediator

PY121906Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 12 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpts] The church has withdrawn from mediation in the hunger strike conflict. This morning the cardinal of Bolivia, His Eminence Jose Clemente Maurer, announced that he had withdrawn from mediating on behalf of the church in the hunger strike conflict which continues in various cities in this country.

He began by explaining that the Episcopal Conference was visited by Interior Minister Guillermo Jimenez Gallo, who reported that there were members of religious congregations involved in the strike. His Eminence stated that they participate as private persons, not on behalf of the church. He said that he had intended to return to Sucre last Monday, but as the flights were canceled due to bad weather he had to remain in La Paz where he was requested to act as mediator in the hunger strike problem.

Our press department obtained this statement by Cardinal Jose Clemente Maurer this morning:

[Maurer--begin recording] In the Episcopal Conference we received a visit from Interior Minister Jimenez Gallo and we talked about the fact that members of religious congregations had joined the strike. We told him, however, that they participated as private persons, not on behalf of the church. They have joined by their own conscience and on their own responsibility.

Therefore it cannot be said that the church is involved in the movement; it is always necessary to distinguish [words indistinct] who participate by their own responsibility and their own conscience. It cannot be said that the church is plotting or that the church is supporting this or that attitude.

After that meeting with the minister, I intended to return last Monday, but on Monday night the president phoned me and said to me: Look here, Mr Cardinal [Senor Cardinal], we want to finish this matter, but we want for you and me to arrange the thing. I know that they have proposed a certain Mr (Meyer) as mediator, but he is a U.S. citizen and [words indistinct] and I am not interested; he is a foreigner. You are a priest in close contact with the people and I will act on behalf of my government.

Nothing more can now be done. Even so we believe that [words indistinct]. [end recording]

These are the statements obtained by our press department this morning from Cardinal Jose Clemente Maurer.

At the Law School of Sucre University, 270 students continue their hunger strike. The hunger strike was initiated yesterday at noon by 246 university students, but the number grew this morning to 270 when normal school and secondary school students joined it. It has been reported that the students are continuing the hunger strike and the general strike in an orderly manner, despite the warning given by the university rector. It was added that support has been received from the interior of the country, particularly from Potosi.

Cabinet Rejects Strikers' Modifications

PY141629Y La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The problem of the hunger strike which has been going on for 18 days in various parts of the country seems to have reached an impasse, because the cabinet has rejected a few modifications made by the strikers in the document signed by the Bolivian primate, Cardinal Jose Clemente Maurer, and the interior minister [words indistinct]. The position of the cabinet seems to be firm: Either the document is accepted or nothing is.

Labor Minister Mario Vargas has given his opinion regarding the hunger strike problem. He said that from the very moment when Cardinal Maurer intervened, the government showed its willingness to make an effort to reach a solution. Vargas Salinas said that when an agreement had been reached with the Cardinal, who talked with representatives for the strikers before signing, the government had considered the problem as solved. Vargas Salinas also said that the government has announced through several institutions that it will take a rigid stand with regard to the strikers.

Oruro Strikers Said Arrested

PY141734Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1516 GMT 14 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 14 Jan--It was reported here today that a group of hunger strikers was first arrested and released later by the police in Oruro. The strikers were arrested as they were leaving the office of the newspaper EXPRESO to go to a Catholic church.

Don Gaston Gambule, the prefect of the department, told the press that the strikers were released immediately "after having being reprimanded by the officials." This was the first time the police have arrested hunger strikers since the strike started 17 days ago.

Strikers Reassert Original Demands

PY141756Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 Jan 78 PY

[Text] During the last few hours the hunger strikers have reasserted their demands for the legalization of labor unions and the withdrawal of troops from mining centers. At a press conference last night the Permanent Human Rights Assembly explained the positions of those who are on hunger strike. The representatives stated that when the committee named by the 14 groups fasting in various Bolivian cities rejected the proposals made by the government, they decided to return to their original demands to include legalization for labor unions and the withdrawal of troops from mining centers.

They also decided to continue their hunger strike to the last and confirmed their demands for general and unrestricted amnesty, rehiring of dismissed workers, union legalization, withdrawal of troops and the repeal of the state security law.

In view of the gravity of the situation and the lack of a solution on the part of the government, former president Siles Salinas has announced that he would join the hunger strike as of today. Many statements have been published by international organizations, supporting the demands of the hunger strikers.

The commission of La Paz doctors has said that an effort is being made to prevent deaths among those on hunger strike and reported that 11 of them have now had to give up in La Paz.

In yesterday's cabinet meeting the interior minister made a report on the political situation of the country, stating that the hunger strike continues despite the fact that he had signed an agreement with Cardinal Maurer and calling this behavior an entirely political stand. The La Paz archbishop, together with his auxiliary bishops, curates and priests, has published a message, making an appeal to all men of good will, both rulers and ruled, to contribute to solving the present anguishing situation of the hunger strike.

The hunger strike, initiated 17 days ago by 20 relatives of miners, continues to receive support in six departmental capitals [La Paz, Potosi, Oruro, Sucre, Tarija and Santa Cruz]. This morning close to 1,000 people joined the hunger strike. At the same time, several grassroots leaders in the mining districts have announced that they would take drastic measures unless the government satisfies the demands of those on hunger strike within the next few hours.

In the atmosphere of conflict which has been reigning in this country for more than 17 days, the president has announced that the armed forces government will constitutionalize the country, despite any problem. He also announced that no state of siege will be imposed and that the general elections will not be suspended. He also said that the government might take strong measures to prevent chaos and anarchy, if the hunger strike, which has a sinister background, continues.

Santa Cruz Strikers Arrested

PY141906Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1718 GMT 14 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 14 Jan--Last night about 60 security police agents entered a Catholic church in Santa Cruz de la Sierra and detained 15 persons who were on hunger strike. This was reported here today by the Bolivian branch of the Human Rights Assembly to the local press. It was added that the whereabouts of the detained persons, eight of whom are women, is unknown.

The detention of the strikers in the Catholic Church of San Jose Obrero in Santa Cruz, an important city 1,000 km east of La Paz, was interpreted here as a new tension factor in the strike which has not continued for 17 days. It is a tradition in this country that no dententions must be made inside Catholic churches, which have always been looked upon as a political asylum for persecuted persons, regardless of political distinctions. The high Catholic hierarchy has not, however, issued any communique regarding the event.

The Bolivian Human Rights Assembly also reported that international observers will arrive in the country within the next few hours to study the situation which has arisen from the hunger strike, unprecedented in this country.

Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas, Bolivian human rights champion and former president, stated yesterday at a press conference that he feared that the security policy would dislodge the hunger strikers from where they are.

Siles Salinas' words came true today in Santa Cruz. Today 1,120 people are fasting in eight Bolivian cities, demanding from the government an unrestricted political amnesty for persons exiled and persecuted for political reasons. Wives of exiles, peasants, miners, professionals, university students, Catholic priests, civic officials and university leaders are participating in the largest nonviolent demonstration of this type in Bolivian history.

Human rights delegates have reported that 67 percent of those participating in the hunger strike are women and that 21 of the participants have now been hospitalized. No political party or labor organization has claimed to have organized the strike which was initiated by a group of wives of political exiles.

The Organization for Aid to the Hunger Strikers is now under the auspices of the Bolivian Human Rights Assembly.

The government and the strikers are accusing each other of maintaining intransigent attitudes in the conflict.

PEREDA'S SUCCESSOR AS AIR FORCE CHIEF NAMED

PY141800Y Bucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Gen Antonio Sempertegui has been appointed air force commander, replacing Gen Juan Pereda Asbun.

ITAMARATY DENIES NUCLEAR POLICY TO BE TAILORED

PY131834Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1725 GMT 13 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 13 Jan--A Foreign Ministry note issued here today states that Brazil does not intend to introduce any changes to its nuclear policy to adjust it to that of the United States. This clarification was made following a statement made by U.S. representative William Moorhead, who after a meeting with Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira, stated last Wednesday that Brazil was willing "to readjust" its position in this field to reconcile it with the U.S. viewpoint.

The note states that no allusion to a possible change of the Brazilian position was made at the meeting held by Azeredo da Silveira and Moorhead, who was accompanied by several U.S. citizens. Observers said that Moorhead's remarks seem to have been misunderstood.

Yet, his remarks were highlighted by the Brazilian press since the nuclear issue has since last year been one of the main points of friction between Brazil and the United States in view of Washington's criticism of the Brazilian-FRG nuclear agreement.

U.S. Senator Howard Baker, who is also visiting Brazil to brief Brazilian officials on the Panama Canal treaty, stated on Thursday that "despite recent disagreements between Brazil and the United States over the nuclear energy issue, there is still a basis for mutual cooperation in this sector and it would be interesting to further it."

URANIUM SALE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH URENCO

PY131422Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1324 GMT 13 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The Hague, 13 Jan--Brazil, the FRG, Great Britain and the Netherlands have approved the agreements for the sale of enriched uranium to Brazil, a Netherlands Foreign Ministry spokesman announced here today.

The agreement, guaranteeing the nonproliferation of the peaceful use of enriched uranium, signed between the British-FRG-Netherlands consortium [URENCO] and Brazil, means that the enriched uranium factory using the ultracentrifugal methods, located in Almelo, Netherlands, will be expanded.

The expansion of this plant's capacity provoked several debates in the Netherlands Parliament under the previous government. The new Christian Democratic-Liberal coalition cabinet has confronted Parliament with an accomplished fact, but intends to "provide information shortly" on the agreement with Brazil, said the government spokesman.

BRIEFS

NEW WAR COLLEGE COMMANDER--Gen Jose Fragomeny was installed today as the new commander of the Superior War College. General Fragomeny will replace Gen Ayrton Pereira Tourinho, was was sent to the general army personnel department in Brasilia. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 10 Jan 78 PY]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR NIGERIA--An agreement for the supply of telecommunications equipment for Nigeria has been signed between the Communications Ministry and four telecommunications companies. The equipment to be supplied to Nigeria will be radios, microwave equipment, television, etc, according to reports. [Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 5 Jan 78 PY]

ENVOY RETURNS TO ARGENTINA WITH INSTRUCTIONS

PY131230Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 13 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--Rene Rojas Galdames, Chilean ambassador to Argentina, has returned to Buenos Aires carrying special instructions from the Chilean Government regarding the Beagle Channel issue.

Ambassador Rojas stated that the way is open to find a solution to the present issue between Chile and Argentina. Ambassador Rojas said that the present issue should be of concern for the two nations but that it can be overcome.

The Chilean representative was in Santiago to attend the meeting which Foreign Minister Carvajal held with Chilean ambassadors to Latin America and in addition held private meetings with [word indistinct].

[Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish at 1033 GMT on 13 January reports that Rojas' mission is to submit "a new judicial proposal to Argentina aimed at achieving a solution to the controversy over the demarcation of sea boundaries in the southern region."]

TEXT OF CARVAJAL LETTER TO ARGENTINA ON DISPUTE

PY132131Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2100 GMT 13 Jan 77 PY

[Text of letter sent by Chilean Foreign Minister Patricio Carvajal to Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes on 12 January 1978]

[Text] My government has closely examined the diplomatic correspondence and the conversations and negotiations carried out over the last few months at various levels and in various forms between our two governments. It seems unnecessary to say that these negotiations have been carried out within a fraternal spirit, which has always been the case in relations between our two countries, and in light of the evolution of these negotiations in the last few years.

I am referring in particular to the letters which his excellency the Argentine president sent to the Chilean president on 5 May and 4 December 1977, and the answers given by the Chilean president on 9 May and 7 December of the same year, to the letters of Your Excellency of 31 May 1977, and to the letter of my government dated 7 June of the same year, to the conversations held in Buenos Aires in July and in Santiago in October 1977 and to the negotiations with Your Excellency in Santiago on 15 and 16 December 1977 and in Buenos Aires on 27 and 28 December 1977.

During this period, our governments exchanged several notes, through which protests of facts were made and rights were reasserted in the southern area.

A review of all the background has allowed my government to confirm that, even though certain questions were definitively settled and therefore cannot be revised, there remain some disagreements regarding the respective rights of our two countries in the southern area of the American Continent, disagreements which have not been solved in the course of the negotiations despite the efforts made.

My government has arrived at this conclusion with deep regret. Fortunately, however, a more than 100-year-old tradition indicates that any difference between our two countries that cannot be solved through direct agreement must be submitted to a legal or arbitral solution. In this regard, let me refer to the 1855 treaty of peace, friendship, trade and navigation, the 1811 border treaty and the 1902 general arbitration treaty. I should add to these references that, in accordance with a tradition which has been historically invariable in the relations of our two countries and by initiative of your government, the Argentine and Chilean governments signed a general treaty on the legal solution of disagreements in 1972, a treaty which binds the two countries to submit any differences which cannot be solved directly by the two parties to the International Court of Justice.

The situation I have mentioned has led my government to the conclusion that the very desire to keep friendly relations between our two countries requires us to resort to the procedure established by the 1972 treaty, in order to put an end to the disagreements which draw us apart regarding the southern region.

Thus, in line with Article 4 of the aforementioned treaty, I have the honor of inviting Your Excellency's government to establish, in agreement with the Chilean Government, the topics, subjects or disagreements which should be submitted for the consideration of the International Court of Justice.

I wish to convey to Your Excellency my belief that an affirmative answer by the enlightened Argentine Government will allow us to find, in line with international law, a solution in accordance with treaties in force and with the traditional friendship which is inherent to the relations between our two nations and governments.

I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to assure Your Excellency of my deepest regard.

PDC PRESIDENT ZALDIVAR, OTHERS ARRESTED

PY132340Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2320 GMT 13 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 13 Jan--A dozen members of the Chilean Christian Democratic Party [PDC], including several former congressmen and leaders, were arrested today by security forces on the accusation of holding political meetings.

The group, arrested tonight in a downtown Santiago building, is headed by former Congressmen Andres Zaldivar, president of the dissolved PDC, Tomas Reyes and Andres Aylwin.

The list of detainees also includes former leaders Belisario Velasco, Juan Sepulveda, Samuel Astorga, Ignacio Balbontin, Hernan Mery, Georgina Aceituno and Guillermo Hormazabal, former leader of Chilean secondary students.

Political activity has been prohibited in Chile since the military coup of 11 September 1973 which overthrew Socialist President Salvador Allende.

Chilean President Augusto Pinochet indicated yesterday in a speech in the city of Concepcion that "those who still persist in their obstinate goal of creating confusion should know that the government will not hesitate to use a strong hand to prevent the contamination of good Chileans."

Restricted to North

PY141813Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 Jan

[Text] Pursuant to the state of siege law the Interior Ministry has restricted to the northern region--in Arica Province--12 of the 16 former political and union leaders of the dissolved Christian Democratic Party [PDC] arrested yesterday on charges of breaking the political recess, according to government officials.

The group was arrested by personnel of the National Intelligence and investigation police while attending a meeting held yesterday at 1800 in Apartment 13-1 located at 1313 Huerfanos Street. Their confinement, which is for an indefinite period, was implemented early this morning.

Andres Aywin, former deputy, and Juan Reyes were restricted to Guayaquil; Guillermo Yunge and Samuel Astorga to Chapiquina; Ignacio Balbontin and Georgina Aceituno to Coipa; Juan Sepulevda and Hernan Mery to (Pungre); Belisario Velasco and Enrique Hernandez to (Tarinacota); former Senator Tomas Reyes and Elias Sanchez to (Chocuyo). The remaining four persons arrested in yesterday's raid have been released. They are: Maria Teresa (Figueres), Hector Egana, Juan Acuna and Miguel Alarcon.

FORMER EXILE DIES AFTER CLASH WITH POLICE

PY131229Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 13 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--Former political exile (German Basualdo) has died at the Joaquin Aguirre Hospital from a bullet wound he received during a clash with police officers.

(Basualdo), who had been sought by the police on several armed robbery charges, died yesterday at noon. The clash with police took place in the Santa Monica neighborhood located in the Conchali District. He was later transfered to the hospital where his life could not be saved.

BRIEFS

EMERGENCY ZONE CHIEFS APPOINTED--Vice Adm (Arturo Troncoso Daroch) has been confirmed as chief of the emergency zone for the Valparaiso Province and Easter Island. Brig Gen Hector Orozco Sepulveda has been appointed acting chief of emergency zone for the metropolitan area and San Antonio Province. General Orozco replaces Brig Gen (Enrique Morel), who is on leave. [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 13 Jan 78 PY]

NEW ECA DIRECTOR--Gen Manuel de la Fuente Borge (Ret) is the new vice president of the Agricultural Commerce Enterprise [ECA]. He replaces (Hernan Garcia). [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 12 Jan 78 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICIZES U.S. PROTECTIONIST POLICIES

PA152217Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1734 GMT 15 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota, 15 Jan (EFE)--Colombia today criticized the growing U.S. protectionism against the sale of Colombian products in the U.S. market. Colombia also suggested to the government of President Jimmy Carter the adoption of a friendly attitude that would promote free trade.

Colombian Foreign Minister Indalecio Lievano Aguirre has reiterated strongly that the increase of U.S. protectionist regulations is harming the already declining volume of Latin American exports. "The rebirth of trade protectionism in the United States is making relations between that country and Latin America difficult," the foreign minister stated. The foreign minister said he was surprised at the continued growth of protectionism since what is "appropriate is a relationship based on friendly free trade."

PRESIDENT VIEWS NATIONAL POLITICS, OTHER TOPICS

PA150031Y Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 8 Jan 78 pp 1-a, 7-a PA

[Interview with Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen by "Las Reporteras" radio program of Caracol Network--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Most ex-presidents adopt an attitude of opposition to the incumbent administration as soon as their term is over. Will you also devote your time to being in the opposition?

[Answer] No. First of all, not all former presidents but rather a few exceptions devote their time to being in the opposition. I feel that after leaving office one has a commitment to adopt a constructive attitude, to help and to contribute toward solving national problems. At least that is the lesson I learned from my father.

[Question] From what [former] president have you felt the most opposition?

[Answer] I do not like to single people out.

[Question] Will you seek Liberal unity if division continues after you step down? Will you work for the Liberal Party?

[Answer] I will promote my ideas. I become more convinced of them every day.

[Question] Ideas such as upholding the right to be free?

[Answer] Right. [Ideas such as] upholding freedom and certain other ideas on how to administer the national economy. Of course, they cannot all be practiced in 4 years, but they are quite a step forward over what we had in the past 30 or 40 years. I believe that even though the policy of replacing imports and levying certain protective tariffs in order to achieve an artificial industrial development has created jobs and theoretically saved money, it has also had some very negative effects on the national economy such as disregarding subsistence farming and concentrating a large number of public services, electrical plants and major income sources in a few cities. [paragraph continues]

That is why the government plan has been called a "gap-filler." From the standpoint of state protection and attention, the gap does not lie between the rich and the poor, but between the city and the countryside, between the modern and backward areas, between industry and farming.

[Question] Mr President, you recently said that you would be handing over a very different country from the one you received. Do you believe that the nation is aware of what your administration has meant, not only as a social and economic revolution but also as a new style of administration?

[Answer] I think a certain perspective will be necessary to understand that the resistance to this government has its origin in deeply-rooted prejudices in the Colombian way of thinking regarding economic matters. I believe that a large part of the labor unions' resistance has resulted from the fact that they do not view the country except within the framework they have been accustomed to for many years.

[Question] Mr President: Last year when several presidents met here you said that an agreement had been reached with Venezuela, but several days ago a newspaper said that no such agreement existed. Do you hope finally to reach an agreement this year?

[Answer] In truth, the matter of the delimitation with Venezuela is extremely complex and I believe--without sounding excessively immodest--that no other Colombian has devoted as much time to this issue as I have, for the simple reason that in the past 7 or 8 years I have participated in the discussions first as a member of the Foreign Relations Advisory Commission, then as foreign minister and finally as president. But there are very different positions between the two countries. Although it is true that in practice we reached what could be called an agreement, that agreement has not won support in Venezuela where it was released to the political parties and the armed forces.

[Question] Are you discontinuing then your efforts to reach an agreement?

[Answer] That is a matter which one cannot discontinue, but obviously the laborious agreement reached in principle has coincided with the elections in both countries. Although I believe that here in Colombia we could have had some kind of consensus regarding this agreement, the truth is that the same situation did not exist in Venezuela.

[Question] Mr President, 1978 will be the year of the constituent assembly. I imagine that you will participate in it. Has any former president announced whether he will participate in that assembly?

[Answer] I believe that all of them will participate, beginning with the most senior ones, such as former presidents Lleras Camargo and Echandia. As far as I know, all of them will contribute their experiences, which no doubt will be very valuable.

[Question] Mr President, the year ended with the security forces dealing a hard blow to kidnaping. Do you believe, as a newspaper did, that kidnaping was in effect the highlight of the year?

[Answer] That is precisely one of the manifestations of what I earlier called a lack of love for Colombia, the lack of identification with the country. I agree that kidnaping may have been the year's biggest misfortune, although as I have already noted the number was smaller than in the previous year. Still, it seems to me that choosing it as a symbol of Colombia is not in accordance with the affection one should feel for his country. By the same token, they could say in Germany, Israel, Holland or Italy that the hijacking of planes or the dynamite attacks in Paris had been the highlight of the year. No, they are misfortunes, and misfortunes are not highlights of the year anywhere.

[Question] Mr President, you proposed the formation of honor tribunals in the press sector. The public works minister has accepted and developed your idea. Do you think that initiative is gaining acceptance?

[Answer] For me it is very satisfactory to see a young man like Daniel Samper, who was away from the country for some time and was able to study and analyze this phenomenon, accepting such an idea. But I will not deceive myself into believing that the entire Columbian press will abide by this procedure. You are already familiar with the by now classic differences between the "great press" and the "low press." Probably the "great press," which has tradition and respects a certain set of values may little by little accomodate itself to this institution which has been gaining acceptance. But if the institution of the honor tribunals has been gaining acceptance, "yellow journalism" has also been gaining accpetance. And although people have not yet become aware of this, the truth is that one of the phenomena I have had to confront is the emergence of "yellow journalism" in its most brazen and shameless form. Yellow journalism has been spreading to other newspapers which had not been previously characterized by this type of journalism, and this is precisely what the honor tribunals are trying to curb. It would seem to me that the persons who exploit yellow journalism have no interest in being linked with any type of honor tribunal.

KIDNAPED BUSINESSMAN'S BODY FOUND

PA142021Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Twenty-five million pesos were demanded as ransom by the kidnapers of businessman Miguel Jimenez Garzon, who was finally murdered by them. His body was found early this morning 5 km from Fusagasuga, as this station announced. According to a report by authorities at noon today, Jimenez Garzon's relatives paid the kidnapers 3 million pesos and asked for more time to get the rest. When the deadline passed, his relatives had not been able to obtain the money, and the delinquents murdered him.

Jimenez Garzon, the owner of "Pollos Ditraco" was shot in the face. His body was burned and then thrown on the Bogota-Fusagasuga road. The body was identified by a wedding ring on his right hand. The coroner says he was murdered 3 days ago.

EPL GUERRILLAS STAGE BANK ROBBERY

PA100240Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 9 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Ten EPL Guerrillas today staged the year's second bank robbery. They stole 250,000 pesos from the Banco Popular branch that operates in Lorencita Villegas de Santos Hospital. Eight men and two women, young-looking and heavily armed, entered the bank this afternoon and held employees, guards and customers at gun-point while they gathered all the money from tellers' windows. The members of the Pedro Leon Arboleda cell painted several EPL slogans on the walls, and then fled for an unknown destination in a city bus which happened to pass by. The majority of the guerrillas have used public vehicles for their getaways, preferably buses and station wagons.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN--Bogota--The National government today appointed Eduardo Galvez Espinoza Colombian ambassador to Sweden. Galvez Espinoza will assume his new post in January, 1978. [Bogota Circuito Todelar in Spanish 0005 GMT 24 Dec 77 PA]

REPORTS ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM

Vote on New Constitution

PA160446Y Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 0410 GMT 16 Jan 78 PA

[Report from the Secretariat of Information of the presidency of the republic in Quito--live]

[Text] The new constitution has won in the referendum, with the votes divided as follows:

For the new constitution	632,691 or 41.92 percent
For the amended 1945 constitution	503,299 or 33.36 percent
Null votes	346,956 or 23 percent
Blank votes	25,639 or 1.7 percent

Lack of Amnesty Decried

PA140023Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 Jan 78 PA

[Communique issued by the Supreme Referendum Tribunal--read by Tribunal President Galo Plaza--live or recorded]

[Text] The Supreme Referendum Tribunal is convinced that the political act which will be carried out on Sunday, 15 January 1978, is of great importance for the country's democratic destiny. Therefore, the future of the fatherland will depend on the conscientious, responsible and idealistic vote of every citizen. The Supreme Tribunal would have perferred that on the date of referendum the Ecuadorean family be as united as possible and free of any repression. However, the Supreme Government Council, for reasons which are not in our jurisdiction to judge, has ignored the constant insinuations of the tribunal to declare a complete political amnesty prior to 15 January which, in its opinion, would have promoted a felicitous and necessary political understanding between the government, the armed forces and the people of the fatherland.

Nevertheless, the Supreme Tribunal believes that in no case could the referendum--supreme democratic solution in the transition to a legal government--be subordinated to an appropriate measure such as an amnesty. The Tribunal believes that the deficiencies of the electoral lists are not unsurmountable obstacles. The electoral lists were prepared by the Civil Registry's technical department and the job is immensely complicated due to the application of new computer systems which are not under the authority of the Supreme Referendum Tribunal.

[Signed] (Carlos Nasa), Clemente Yerovi Indaburu, Benjamin Carrion, Camilo Gallegos Toledo [names indistinct], Diego Bustamante Cardenas, Enrique Herrera Delgado, Horacio Guillen, Luis (Panchano) Carrion.

Church Favors Participation

PA140047Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 Jan 78 PA

[Text] It has been learned that the Catholic Church has decided to recommend voting in Sunday's referendum. The Ecuadorean Episcopal Conference and the Quito Archdiocese have declared that it is a conscientious duty to vote in the referendum. Nevertheless, they said that the two proposed constitutions are not perfect, but indicated that the new one is more acceptable.

Other institutions, the armed forces and the police, which will not participate in the voting, have decided to place all their active members on duty on Sunday. The police will be in charge of maintaining public order and will patrol cities and towns. Army, navy and air force personnel will guard the voting booths.

Unregistered Voters Participate

PA1400497 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 Jan 78 PA

[Sumpreme Council of Government decree read by Galo Plaza, president of Supreme Referendum Tribunal--live or recorded]

[Text] Article 1. The citizens who, having registered, do not appear on the election lists, with the exception of those who are included in the prohibitions outlined in Article 25 of the referendum statutes, will be allowed to exercise their right to vote in the 15 January, 1978 referendum.

Article 2. In order to exercise the right to vote, the citizens described in the foregoing article will present their citzenship identity card, which will be returned with the lower lefthand corner cut off after the citizen has voted.

Article 3. The aforementioned citizens will exercise their right to vote in the polling booths of their respective parishes.

Article 4. For the dissemination of the present decree, the [words indistinct] as well as the official register for the [words indistinct].

Election List Problem Corrected

PA1320027 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0130 GMT 13 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 12 Jan (LATIN)--The military government today authorized citizens who were omitted from the electoral lists compiled for the constitutional plebiscite to be held on Sunday to vote in an effort to correct large-scale omissions from the lists. The government also announced penalties for those who obstruct the elections in which 1.6 million Ecuadoreans will choose between a new constitution and the reformed 1945 constitution as a first step toward presidential elections on 16 July. The citizens whose names were omitted from the lists will vote in special polls and their identity cards will be marked with a cut in order to prevent multiple voting, according to a decree issued this evening by the Supreme Council of Government. Newspapers have complained of serious shortcomings contained in the electoral lists--consisting of the omission of "hundreds of thousands" of voters--which would jeopardize the results of the plebiscite, part of the plan promoted by the armed forces to hand over power to civilians after 8 years of dictatorial regimes.

Galo Plaza, president of the Supreme Tribunal of the Referendum, had announced yesterday that the persons who were not on the lists could not vote. Another government decree calls for prison terms of between 8 and 15 days for those who commit acts which obstruct the plebiscite and for those who either physically or verbally attack the voters. The decree also calls for a dry law in which the sale and consumption of alchoholic drinks are banned. Those who participate in these activities during the voting will be penalized. The same decree confirms that all electoral propaganda must cease at 1800 on Saturday, the day before the referendum.

Report on Plebiscite Events

PA151654Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1626 GMT 15 Jan 78 PA

[By Julio Cesar Villaverde]

[Excerpt] Quito, 15 Jan (LATIN)--With unexpected enthusiasm Ecuadoreans today went to the polls apparently determined to give the country a new constitution which will reinstate the democratic system of government after 8 years of de facto regimes. Reports from the most important provinces and this capital indicate that there is complete calm and that the plebiscite has proceeded normally since it began. More than 1.6 million citizens of a total population of 6.5 million registered to participate in the plebiscite. It is expected that over 70 percent of the voters will go to the polls. Thousands of citizens were waiting in line to vote for the first time since 1970 when the polls opened at 0700 (1200 GMT) today.

Politicians Reportedly Arrested

PA152008Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1948 GMT 15 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 15 Jan (LATIN)--Spokesmen for the Supreme Referendum Tribunal have reported that several political leaders were arrested today as they were making a tour of the polling booths during the constitutional referendum called by the military government. Oswaldo Hurtado, Christian Democratic Party president; Julio Cesar Trujillo, Progressive Conservative Party director; and Luis Gomez Izquierdo, a former minister of finance and leader of the National Democratic Union [as received], are among the 15 people who were reported to have been arrested. Coworkers of the arrested individuals made the announcement to the referendum tribunal, noting that the arrests took place as refreshments were being distributed among the personnel in charge of the information centers set up by the parties.

Referendum Violators Listed

PA160308Y Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 0150 GMT 16 Jan 78 PA

[Press bulletin issued by the National Secretariat of Information of the presidency of the republic--date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Official reports show that 19 persons have been arrested in Quito, 9 in Guayaquil and 1 in Machala for violating Decree 2130, which prohibits conducting propaganda in connection with the referendum after 1800 on Saturday, 14 January.

The following persons were arrested in the sector Puente del Senor, in Quito: Pablo Anibal, Enriquez Espinoza, Carlos Ramos Anturi, Rodrigo Moreno (Oleag), Gustavo Bastan Cordero, Emilio Gustavo Jaime Chiriboga, Jose Palacios Herrera, Cesar Roberto (Mieles) Cedeno, Ivan Tarciso Narvaez Quinones, Cesar Ramiro Dominguez, Wilfrido Arturo Aguilar Olmedo, (Cleder) Humberto Tovar Sanchez, Edgar Vicente (Luzuriaga), Vicente Patricio Vargas Chacon, Jaime Geronimo Zambrano Palacios, Luis Gomez Izquierdo, Julio Cesar Trujillo Vasquez, Dagoberto Fernando Aguilar Olmedo, Carlos (Mauricio Atabalos) Guevara and Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea.

The following persons were arrested in Guayaquil, inside a polling booth in (Urdeza): Asaad Bucaram, Marco Nunez, Aquiles Rodrigues Venegas, Daniel Alvarado, Carlos Julio Llerena, Julio Paredes Cabrera, Rafael de la Cadena, Efrem Yepez and Omar Bucaram. Asaad Bucaram was arrested by provincial police chief Col Oswaldo Navarro, whom Bucaram insulted. Manuel Cabrera was arrested in Machala.

Velasco Ibarra: Annul Votes

PA121639Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1906 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 11 Jan (AFP)--Jose Velasco Ibarra, five-time president of Ecuador, has asked the people to annul their votes in Sunday's referendum as a rejection of the "dictatorship." He also said that the sovereign people are the ones who "feed the militarymen with their income." Velasco made these statements to an Argentine newsman in his residence in Buenos Aires.

The report was broadcast over one of the television stations of the principal port, the country's most populous city.

The 85-year-old former president said that the referendum is due to the fact that the "current dictators" do not want to be judged by a constituent assembly.

He lashed out at the politicians who support the referendum. He also asked his supporters to select a leader, "a combative man who will lead and impose a constituent assembly" since he cannot "struggle as an active politician" in Ecuador because of his advanced age.

FORMER FINANCE MINISTER RELEASED

PA131615Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0330 GMT 13 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 12 Jan (EFE)--Former Ecuadorean finance minister Luis Gomez Izquierdo, who was arrested in Quito last week, was released together with six other persons.

A police communique issued today reported that the group was released after being questioned in connection with the kidnaping and murder of a young businessman, Antonio Briz.

The communique adds that other persons, whose identity and number are not specified, will remain under arrest "until they provide all the information which it is known they have or disprove the charges or accusations against them." Among the persons still under arrest are three relatives of the former minister, two religious figures and other persons whose arrests led to protests and complaints by some political circles.

Gomez Izquierdo is the present leader of the National Democratic Union. He was arrested on Tuesday of last week, shortly after harshly criticizing the government and police for arresting his son, a university student. Gomez Izquierdo charged that government authorities were purposefully trying to implicate his family in the Briz case.

Antonio Briz, a young businessman who owned an important chain of stores, was kidnaped at noon on 29 November at the Quito Chamber of Commerce. The kidnapers asked his relatives for $600,000 in ransom. However, 2 weeks later, when the kidnapers' complicated instructions were still in the process of being complied with, the businessman's head was found in the yard of a local school.

On Monday the government ministry flatly rejected all rumors to the effect that the arrests of Luis Gomez Izquierdo and other persons were politically motivated. The minister said that the arrests were made exclusively in connection with investigations of the Briz case and of illegal arms trafficking.

POLICE, STRIKERS CLASH IN CHIMBOTE; 2 KILLED

PA141915Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1601 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 14 Jan (AFP)--Two persons were killed and 16 persons received gunshot wounds yesterday in clashes between strikers and police in Chimbote Port, 435 km north of Lima, the local press reported today. The incidents occurred on the second and last day of a general strike by popular and labor organizations in this city, Peru's main fishing port, in support of the workers of the state-owned steelmill, who have been on strike since 5 December. The first day of the general strike was peaceful, but the situation became tense yesterday morning when hundreds of demonstrators blocked the northern exit from the city and tried to take refuge in a labor center. The police intervened with tear gas grenades and firearms, killing 2 persons (a 31-year-old worker and a 31-year-old woman) and wounding 16, two seriously.

The Chimbote Municipal Council blamed the steelmill's general manager, Luis Caceres, for the disturbances. It asked for his dismissal and insisted on a solution for the 5,200 state-owned mill workers. It was also said that the steelmill strike has caused losses of 1.3 million soles ($10,000) and 750 billion soles due to the city's 3-day general strike in support of the steel workers. The steel workers, who are asking for wage increases and the reinstatement of dismissed workers, asked the UN Human Rights Commission to intervene to prevent other incidents.

FCD ON PRESIDENT'S CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY REMARKS

PA131449Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 5 Jan 78 p 4 PA

[Declaration of the Democratic Center Front issued in Lima on 3 January, 1978]

[Text] 1. The Democratic Center Front [FCD] considers it its duty to comment on the president's most recent news conference as reported in the newspapers of this capital according to which the decisions of a constituent assembly would be limited by the expectations and concepts the present government has regarding amendments.

2. Because of its democratic beliefs that sovereignty and the government stem from popular recognition, the FCD considers that the call for the election of a constituent assembly implies a call to the citizenry to evaluate and make very free decisions regarding the extent and future of the reforms which have been made.

3. In addition to the open letter sent to the president of the republic, the FCD asserts that amendments, whatever they may be, are valid and advisable to the extent that they harmonize with the common good, that is, with the interest of all the citizens. Consequently, it is in light of this principle that the constituent assembly, composed of citizens elected from all the social classes and sectors, must adopt in the name of the nation the decisions it deems advisable regarding reforms.

4. The FCD considers that the citizenry is aware of the need which existed to make structural changes, but believes that the application of many of the changes requires adjustments that must be publicly debated and that must be in line with the rights upon which the necessary unity for the nation's reconstruction must rest, such as respect for property in the cities and the countryside, from a social viewpoint; respect for the security and well-being of all citizens and the right to work, either as entrepreneurs or paid workers, and the right to compensation for efficiency and honesty; respect for the right to state individual opinions and to organize; and, at the time of the announced electoral schedule, respect for the will of the majority as the basic foundation of national coexistence. Lima, 3 January, 1978 [Signed] National Directive Committee, 5 Jan, 78

CONSALVI DISAVOWS AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ON CHILE

PA122348Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1809 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 12 Jan (AFP)--Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi today disavowed statements made by Venezuelan Ambassador to Chile Enrique Aizpurua Ayala. A few days ago, Aizpurua Ayala said that the plebiscite held recently in Chile was an example of civic action. Asked if he agreed with Aizpurua's statements, Consalvi curtly replied: "Of course not."

COPEI OFFICIAL SAYS AD CERTAIN TO BE DEFEATED

PA120352Y Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpt] The secretary general of the Social Christian Party (COPEI) has said that Democratic Action [AD] will lose the upcoming presidential election by a large margin. Dr Pedro Pablo Aguilar made this statement to station reporter Ernesto Vegas in connection with a recent meeting of the ruling party's executive committee.

[Aguilar--beging recording] If we analyze the reports and speeches made by candidate [Luis] Pinerua, Party President Dr [Bonzalo] Barrios, Secretary General Alejandro Izaguirre, the campaign manager and all those who addressed the meeting, it can easily be concluded that the major topic discussed was the views of Democratic Action and its strategy planners that if the elections were held now, the ruling party's candidate would lose by a large margin. [end recording]

Dr Aguilar noted that all polls taken in the country report that Senator Luis Herrera Campins will win the upcoming election.

[Aguilar--beging recording] All the polls show that Luis Herrera Campins is the most likely candidate to win. It would be very difficult for the candidate of the official party to defeat him. That is why the results of the recent AD meeting should prompt profound satisfaction for COPEI members. [end recording]

LEFTIST PARTIES MAY ELECT SINGLE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA141724Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The leftist parties have reached a consensus on presenting a single candidate in the December presidential election. This has become apparent after the latest meetings among the opposition parties. Jose Vicente Rangel, the candidate of the Movement for Socialism [MAS] believes that an agreement is very possible. The candidate of the Communist Party of Venezuela [PCV], Hector Mujica, is of the same opinion.

Dr Luis Beltran Prieto Figueroa also believes that an agreement will be reached, while the candidate with the clean hands [as heard], Americo Martin, trusts that an agreement will be forthcoming. It is possible that in the next few months the leftist parties will elect one candidate to face the hegemony of the Social Christian Party and of Democratic Action.

BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

PA150245 [Editorial Report PA] Mexico City International Service in Spanish at 2345 GMT on 14 January 1978 broadcasts live from Mexico City's international airport the ceremony to welcome Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel and his party who are on an official visit to Mexico.

The arrival of the Brazilian Air Force plane carrying the president and his party is announced. On hand to receive him at the presedential hangar are President Lopez-Portillo, his wife and daughter, the members of the presidential cabinet, representatives of the diplomatic corps and other officials.

After President Geisel deplanes, the Mexican and Brazilian anthems are played. The two presidents, their wives and respective daughters then greet each other at the presidential platform.

In his 3-minute welcoming speech, President Lopez-Portillo stresses the similarities between Mexico and Brazil. Regarding this, he says: "We identified each other in the past and both our countries are countries of the future and with a future. Learning to discuss our problems and to resolve them with our own resources while maintaining our economic and political independence is our common challenge."

Concluding, he notes: "This is basically what our people expect from this meeting--that we help consolidate, strengthen and expand our relations, that we combine our efforts and unite with each other so that we are no longer separated by geography. Many important tasks lie ahead us, Mr President. I am absolutely sure that our peoples will derive positive benefits from this meeting."

In his 3.5-minute answering speech, President Geisel also underlines the friendship and points of affinity between their two countries and praises the Mexican people's dignity and courage. He states: "My presence here in Mexico is evidence of our solidarity and Latin American unity. The values we defend--national independence, sovereign equality, nonintervention and mutual respect--guarantee that our dialog will be fruitful and that our understandings in this historical and very beautiful city will guarantee friendship and cooperation between our two countries. That, Mr President, is the spirit of my visit."

After the presidential speeches, the Mexican and Brazilian parties continue to exchange greetings. The live relay concludes at 0017 GMT.

Schedule of Activities

FL131138Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 0315 GMT 13 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Jan (INFORMEX)--Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel will be in Mexico from 14 to 18 January at the invitation of Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo.

Oil, technological, economic and industrial exchange, and other bilateral and multilateral matters of interest will be the principal subjects which the two statemen will discuss in their talks.

The presidency of the republic today released the schedule of activities in which the distinguished visitor will be involved during his visit and the members of his entourage.

President Geisel and his wife, Mrs Lucy Markus Geisel, will be received at the presidential hangar on Saturday, 14 January, at 1730 hours by President Jose Lopez-Portillo, his wife Mrs Carmen Romano de Lopez-Portillo, members of the cabinet, representatives of the diplomatic corps and other officials.

Sunday: This day will be mostly for visits to places of archeological interest such as San Juan Teotihuacan and attendance at Sunday night's Ballet Folklorico de Mexico performance at the Fine Arts Palace.

Monday: On this day the two presidents will hold their first found of talks at the National Palace. Prior to the talks, President Geiseli and his entourage will go to the independence monument where they will lay a wreath and mount an honor guard. Later, they will go to the Brazilian Embassy where a reception will be given. Geisel will visit the National Museum of Anthropology and History in the afternoon.

Monday night President and Mrs Lopez-Portillo will give a dinner in honor of the distinguished visitors at the Foreign Relations Secretariat. The two chiefs of state will make speeches there.

Tuesday: The first activity for President Geisel will be his second round of talks with President Lopez-Portillo at the National Palace. Later, he will be given a luncheon at the Charro del Pedregal building.

Tuesday night, the visiting president and his wife will give a dinner in honor of their hosts, President and Mrs Lopez-Portillo. The two presidents will make speeches there and then the Mexican president will be deocrated with the Cruseiro do Sul National Order.

Wednesday: On the last day of the Brazilian President's visit to Mexico, a joint communique resulting from the talks between the two presidents will be released at Los Pinos residence. The farewell ceremony for President Geisel will be at the presidential hangar at 1100 hours.

President Geisel's official entourage consists of 42 persons.

Welcome to Merida: During a technical stop of 2 hours the Brazilian president and his entourage will make in Yucatan State, the state government will give the visitor a short welcome and will show a number of folkloric dances and other musical numbers.

YUGOSLAV DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS WITH MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY

LD152240Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 2045 GMT 15 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Mexico City, January 15, TANJUG--A joint delegation of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia (LCY) and the Socialist Alliance of Yugoslavia headed by LCY Executive Committee member Munir Mesihovic met with the leadership of the Mexican Communist Party today. In the exhaustive talks, opinions were exchanged on the situation and trends in the international communist and workers' movement. Information was also exchanged on the activities of the Mexican Communist Party. The LCY and the Yugoslav Socialist Alliance.

The readiness and wish was expressed on both sides to promote cooperation between the Mexican Communist party with the LCY and the Yugoslav Socialist Alliance. The determination was expressed to provide a joint contribution to the further development of friendly relations between Mexico and Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav delegation visited the federal state of Yucatan yesterday. On this occasion, Mexican state and political officials expressed great interest in Yugoslavia's internal and foreign policies, and particularly in Yugoslav experiences in implementing socialist self-management.

GOVERNMENT SECRETARY DENIES ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE

PA112217Y Mexico City Radio Programmas de Mexico in Spanish 1720 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] After denying that there is an escalation of violence in the nation, Government Secretary Jesus Reyes Heroles said in regard to events in Tamaulipas that it is just a circumstantial problem and that it is not related to other regrettable electoral events.

Consulted in the presidential hangar shortly before Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber's arrival, the presidential cabinet chief said in regard to the dynamite attacks in Guadalajara that the bombs were placed by the People's Union group, the same group which planted bombs last 14 September. He added that the terrorist group is already almost dismembered.

DEFENSE SECRETARY ON CIVIL DISTURBANCES

FL121342Y Merida Radio Yucatan Network in Spanish 1245 GMT 12 Jan 78 FL

[Text] National Defense Secretary Gen Felix Galvan Lopez upon analyzing the political situation affecting Jalisco, Oaxaca and Tamaulipas has stated categorically that foreign organizations are not behind these movements. He pointed out that they are the result of discontented regional groups. Interviewed at the Mexico City international airport presidential hangar, where he was attending the farewell of Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber, the military official stated that there are no foreign infiltrations in the ranks of the subversive groups, the People's Union and the 23 September Communist League. He gave assurance that the actions taken in Oaxaca, Guadalajara and Tamaulipas were under the control of the judicial and state police without the intervention of the army.

PEOPLE'S PARTY MEMBER ON POLITICAL PRISONERS IN COUNTRY
FL121610Y Mexico INFORMEX in Spanish 1512 GMT 12 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Jan (INFORMEX)--Mexican People's Party Central Committee member Manuel Stephens today said that there are political prisoners in Mexico and, to prove it, he added that the state of Nayarit has 10 peasants jailed for defending their land, even though they were backed by presidential resolutions.

The same state authorities have declared that the peasants cannot be released because their cases are exclusively political. This is why we fully agree with the Pro-Defense Committee for the Politically Jailed, Persecuted and Exiled.

The attorney general of the republic has said that there are no political prisoners in Mexico.

It is necessary, Stephens added, for a true amnesty to be legislated (words indistinct] political prisoners and in the future prevent the continued violations of human rights. The Mexican constitution itself grants the right of expression.

FOREIGN MINISTRY: NO DECISION TAKEN ON AMENDMENTS

PA130412Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] An authorized Panamanian Foreign Ministry official told this station this afternoon that the Panamanian Government has made no decision concerning any amendments to the Panama Canal treaties and has not made any commitment in this respect. He added that Panama has not even accepted the incorporation of the Torrijos-Carter declaration as a rider or amendment to the treaties.

The statement made by this official Panamanian Foreign Ministry source to this station comes at a time when the Senate delegations which have visited Panama and others in the United States are talking about amendments to the treaties to facilitate its ratification in the Senate. From another quarter, a quick survey of Panamanian public opinion made by this station indicates that changes or amendments to the treaties will not be well received in Panama.

AMBASSADOR TO PERU SAYS NO TO AMENDMENTS

PA151208Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Panama will not accept any amendments to the canal treaties signed with the United States, Panamanian Ambassador to Peru Boris Moreno said today in Lima. The diplomat, who returned to Lima today after a 2-week stay in Panama, commented on reports from Washington regarding the intention of U.S. congressmen to include changes in the treaties.

Moreno said that last 7 September [as heard] the Panamanian people fulfilled its obligation by means of a plebiscite in which it favorably voted for the signed treaties, and that now it was up to the U.S. Congress to do its part.

BROAD FRONT ISSUES STATEMENT ON U.S. SENATORS' VISITS

PA152244Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 14 Jan 78 pp 1A, 6B PA

[Communique issued by the Broad Front of Professionals--no date or place given]

[Text] The Broad Front of Professionals has followed with great interest the visits paid to our country by members of the U.S. Senate and from the beginning considered them beneficial because they offer the U.S. senators, many of whom do not know our country, the opportunity to directly observe us and to understand, even superficially, the nature of the Panamanian cause.

We consider that the greater the senators' knowledge of the Panamanian people and country, the greater will be their degree of awareness of the implications of their vote on the Torrijos-Carter treaties when they are submitted for consideration by the U.S. Senate.

Nevertheless, our courtesy and broadmindedness extended in receiving those who--no one doubts it--can with their vote affect the development of our country has been misinterpreted by some of the visiting senators who have come to our country with markedly narrow colonialistic views. These attitudes constitute not only thorough disrespect for the essential nature of our national liberation struggle, but could alter the now shorter road which separates us from the goal of a peaceful, negotiated solution.

Panama has fulfilled with maturity and prudence its part in reaching a peaceful solution of the conflict and although it is in principle a U.S. Government problem to fulfill its part, every effort has been made to promote the prompt ratification of the treaties. This does not mean that we are prepared to tolerate colonialistic impudence or to undertake private negotiations with each one of the senators who have visited or will visit us.

The negotiating process ended with the signing of the treaties in Washington on 7 September. This is how the Panamanians understand it and this is how the world understood it when it witnessed the ceremony.

Demonstrating prudence, the U.S. Executive Branch has been emphatic in explaining that this is also its opinion.

We hope that the next senators who visit us have clear ideas about the framework of their visits and understand that the broadmindedness and courtesy extended to them should not be confused with submission.

We hope that good judgement will finally prevail in the U.S. Senate and that the treaties will be ratified for the benefit of future relations between Panama and the United States and between the United States and Latin America. However, it should be very clear in the U.S. senators' minds that the destiny of the Panamanian people will not be decided by them and that our country is firmly facing up to the obstacles that may appear on the road toward its definite liberation, including the eventuality of the nonratification of the treaties.

PDC CHALLENGES PEOPLE'S PARTY

PA152141Y Panama City ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Jan 78 pp 1, 30 PA

[Text] Christian Democratic Party has challenged the People's Party. As we reported yesterday, this week the well-known radio program "El Canonero de Domplin," under the direction of newsman Andres Vega and with the help of Professor Pepe Zamore, aired the views of the three political parties that in the last few months have been agitating in the Panamanian political arena.

Although all the groups participated--that is, the Panamenists, Christian Democrats and Liberals--agreed on seeking a change in the present election and legislative systems, only the Christian Democrats proposed something new in this dialog on the national political situation which is taking place in the communications media with the apparent approval of the highest government officials.

It was Christian Democratic leader Jose Antonio Sossa who publicly challenged the only political group that, according to Sossa, has been actively participating in politics since long before the democratic opening, that is, the People's Party (Communist Party of Panama). According to Sossa, this party has been cooperating with the government since 1970 but has the habit of acting in an underhanded manner without stating its goals or revealing its leaders. The challenge consisted of asking them to come out into the open and give their opinion on the national situation together with the other parties.

The presentation of the national Liberal Party was also noteworthy. Its president, David Samudio A. and Julio E Linares and Roderick Esquivel, made a very organized presentation, especially concerning a possible change in the Panamanian electoral system.

It is possible that in the next few days other communications media will announce programs similar to those promoted by "El Canonero de Domplin" with the participation of Liberals, Christian Democrats and Panamenists.

PROFESSIONALS' MOVEMENT LEADER ANNOUNCES NATIONAL CONGRESS

PA132145Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 Jan 78 p 4a PA

[Article by Jose Montano]

[Text] Panama has about 15,000 professionals ready to show the world that although it is true that the country needs a prompt solution to the canal problem, it is also true that national life is not in the hands of the U.S. Senate, Dr Renato Pereira has stated. Pereira is one of the leaders of the movement which emerged last year under the name of the Broad Front of Professionals [FAP] and which is planning to hold its national congress in Panama City.

Dr Pereira told LA REPUBLICA that this view will be the basis of the proposals to be discussed at the congress. He said that Panama, with its willing human resources, could confront an eventual rigid poisition by those who oppose the Torrijos-Carter treaties, particularly the top circles of the U.S. Congress.

The subject gains importance at this time when the Panamanian chief of government has announced he plans to hold his first meeting in 1978 with the country's professionals who last year maintained an united position regarding the analysis of the treaties and the 23 October plebiscite.

Questioned on the country's current political situation, the FAP leader said that the existence of FAP is extremely important and relevant in an election year. He also harshly criticized the traditional political parties' attempts at participation. Dr Pereira said that the people do not want to return to the way in which political activity was carried out in the past. He described as extremely negative the action of some sectors which seek to sacrifice the country's main objectives for what he described as "politicking."

Nevertheless, Pereira said, he was in favor of the emergence of any expression of the popular will as long as there is no corruption in the election process.

LIBERAL PARTY BEGINS REGISTERING NEW MEMBERS

PA120324Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The National Liberal Party held a meeting this afternoon at the Soloy Hotel in Panama City. A token ceremony was held to open the Liberal Party's registration since, according to architect David Samudio, a party director, it was thought to be necessary to open the registration process so that those who want to join the party may do so.

National Directorate President engineer David Samudio, Secretary General Julio Harris, Guillermo Elias Quijano, Jaime Ortega, Dr Joaquin Fernando Franco, Guillermo Pianeta and Bernardo (Gallol), all National Liberation Party Directorate members, were seated at the chairman's table.

Gonzalo Tapia Collante made a brief historical account of the Panamanian Liberal Party and then engineer Samudio addressed the meeting, noting that it is necessary to return to traditional democratic institutions. Today's ceremony opened the party's registration process.

Party President engineer Samudio will address the nation over a national radio network from David on 14 January at 1930. On that occasion, Samudio will discuss the Liberal Party's views on current national problems, the lifting of the ban on political parties and the Liberal Party's reply to statements by Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, National Information Office chief, on the so-called democratic opening. Engineer Samudio will begin a nationwide tour in Chiriqui, during which he plans to consult with all party members in every province.

SAMUDIO DISCUSSES ROLE OF NATIONAL GUARD IN POLITICS

PA132239Y Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Jan 78 PA

[Liberal Party President David Samudio statement on topic "The National Guard; Its Role in Politics and Political Training in State Institutions" during "Canonero de Domplin" panel discussion program--live]

[Text] This is an extremely delicate issue. But precisely because of its delicacy, it is worthwhile delving into for a real picture of what the National Guard should be.

It is my opinion that the National Guard should be an institution that deserves all the respect and support of the citizenry because it looks after the safety of the citizens, enforces the law and the national constitution. While we sleep peacefully in our homes, the guardsmen are out on the streets taking care of us. They risk their lives against evildoers and criminals, all those who would disrupt order and those who attack private property. Therefore, if this is their primary task, we should all be very grateful to this institution. We should love and admire it and cooperate in every way so that the members of the National Guard, as the Panamanians they are, also enjoy the privileges the law offers all citizens. This is basically how it is and the way we should view the National Guard.

Very wisely, all countries and the constitutions of all nations assign the National Guard a nonbelligerent role in politics, because political belligerence brings as a consequence human passions, and wherever human passions exist, ill feelings and even hatred are created. Since those who participate in politics are exposed to strong emotions, erroneous ideas, biased interpretations, the law then should place the members of the armed institutions in a position that is equally distant from political passions and, consequently, deprive them of participating in politics.

It would be unacceptable for a citizen to be deprived of political participation merely because he is a member of an armed institution. He is being deprived of a right that is being granted to the rest of the citizens. But this is a consequence of the development of nations in order not to place the police in a position where they are exposed to hatred and ill will.

However, there is no law or constitution that keeps a member of an armed institute from deciding, through his vote, what he as a citizen believes to be the most advisable for the republic. Therefore, the members of the armed institutions participate in politics like all citizens by casting their votes at the polls, with full liberty of action, according to what they as Panamanians believe is best for the republic. But we place them in a position where they cannot be belligerent, cannot participate in politics, because this is not the role we would like the National Guard to play.

But what happens? Just as politicians are attacked because of ideological differences, because of program differences, because of the play of ideas, if the armed institution is belligerent and acts in politics, it then also becomes the target of that same criticism those same misunderstandings, thus losing the respect and consideration they deserve.

We see that, at the present time, we must really admit that the only party existing here is the National Guard because it participates in politics. We see that political training is being given to members of the National Guard and they are given political orientation.

Consequently, the National Guard does not enjoy the respect and consideration it deserves. For this reason, we believe that the portion of the national constitution regarding the right of the National Guard to act as a deliberating force should be corrected as already stated.

Also, the function of government is so delicate and absorbing that the person who is directing a public order institution, with all the serious problems it entails, cannot be attending to administrative functions of another kind because he therefore has to neglect the two functions in which he is involved.

If the National Guard has so many problems and if the National Guard--if the treaties are approved, assumes the grave responsibilities listed in the texts of the treaties in which the armed institution must share the maintainance of order and the defense of the Panama Canal with the United States, I am of the opinion that the National Guard should place itself on a high pedestal of professionalism in order to be on equal footing with the U.S. Army in the tasks assigned in the new treaties.

Therefore, I consider, with all due respect, that we should show affection, respect and admiration for the National Guard. But this can only be achieved when the National Guard becomes a nonbelligerent because of the grave consequences that political passions may entail. Thank you.

CENTRAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS

SUMMIT POSTPONED DUE TO NICARAGUAN INCIDENTS

PA150149Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1554 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The meeting of the five Central American rulers, slated to be held in Managua, Nicaragua, in late January will be postponed.

The Public Relations Secretariat of the Guatemalan presidency announced today that the recent incidents in Managua--journalist Pedro Chammorro's assassination and the subsequent disturbances--preclude the holding of the summit in the Nicaraguan capital. It was also announced that after contacting each other on the phone, the area's five rulers decided to postpone the meeting.

The intensification of leftwing guerrilla activity in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala will be the principal topic on the agenda.

COSTA RICA

MINISTER REPORTS CALM ON NICARAGUAN BORDER

PA131426Y San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1220 GMT 13 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] It is not true that civil guards have been dispatched to the Nicaraguan border area. Minister of Public Security Mario Charpentier Gamboa told this newscast that no contingent of guards had been sent to the Nicaraguan border. Minister Charpentier pointed out that all was calm on the Nicaraguan border.

I have no reports of any connection between Sandinists residing in Costa Rica and the death of Chamorro, he said. Minister Mario Charpentier said that there is no official comment in this regard. The Nicaraguan border continues to be calm and no more incidents have occurred since the penetration of the Nicaraguan National Guard in our territory last October, he added.

STATION CALLS FOR SOMOZA'S RESIGNATION

PA142009Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Station editorial]

[Text] Somoza should resign as soon as possible. His statement that he will retire from politics in 1981 is similar to the announcements he has made throughout his life. He has shown, whenever he has stepped down from the presidency, that he and his family continue to rule.

The fact is that Somoza owns everything in Nicaragua. He controls banking, commerce and industry. Somoza wields all political power in Nicaragua, as well as in a large part of Central America. The situation is well known and is reflected in the complex assassination of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro because Plasma Feresis is also linked to Somoza.

It is ridiculous to think that democracy can exist under a dynastic, dictatorial and oppressive system. There can be no talk of freedom and political dynasty at the same time. A government like Somoza's violates human rights, and everybody knows that. The U.S. government itself is very much concerned over the situation in Nicaragua. A U.S. administration has for the first time publicly voiced concern. It is so obvious that it cannot be ignored. This is not paternalism or intervention. Somoza should resign for humanitarian reasons.

The complex result of the investigation into Chamorro's death, Somoza's links with the enterprise and the entrepreneur's denial leave no room for doubt about the mystery surrounding all that occurs under a regime like that of Somoza. If the enterprise was linked to the Somoza family, the truth is that there is much doubt and concern. It will never be possible to dispel these doubts. Nicaragua needs a peaceful and democratic government, not a dictatorial and dynastic empire.

EL SALVADOR

NO OPPOSITION PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS

PA1413362 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1220 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN), a leftist opposition party, will not participate in the coming elections for deputies and municipal councilmen because it feels there is no guarantee that the elections will be honest or impartial. With UDN's decision, all opposition parties have now expressed their decision not to participate in the 12 March elections.

GUATEMALA

GUERRILLAS REPORTEDLY RELEASE KIDNAPED MINISTER

PA1523532 Paris AFP in Spanish 2315 GMT 15 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Jan (AFP)--Roberto Herrera Ibarguen, vice president of the Council of State, was freed today after being kidnaped 2 weeks ago. A former interior and foreign minister, Herrera Ibarguen was kidnaped the morning of 31 December by terrorists from the self-styled People's Guerrilla Army [EGP]. The report of the release of Herrera Ibarguen has published by the (?local press) on Sunday afternoon. However, by 1630 (2230 GMT) the report had not been confirmed by Herrera Ibarguen's relatives.

CLANDESTINE ANTIPOLICE GROUP ESTABLISHED

PA1321322 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2247 GMT 12 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Another clandestine group, this one "specialized in executing corrupt detectives," has emerged in Guatemala, according to notes signed by an avenging group against detectives which were sent to the news media today. The notes explain that the group has the support of the Sandinist guerrillas of Nicaragua and that it is ready to act anywhere in the country.

"This is not a joke. Corrupt policemen will be executed if they do not stop arresting, torturing and killing honest people of all social classes," the new group states.

According to the "communique," it was sent to Government Minister Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz and National Police Director General Coli Mario Cardona Maldonado "so that they can be fully informed."

The new clandestine group emerges at the same time that the Guatemalan police have created various platoons and squads specialized in the fight against crime and violence in general. Those new police units include the Women's Squad, the "Special Group" (EGP) and one similar to the "SWAT" squad of U.S. television.

HONDURAS

HONDURAN-SALVADORAN MEDIATION PROCEDURES REPORTED

PA1414111Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Cesar A. Batres, chief of the Honduran peace delegation that is scheduled to meet next Wednesday with [Salvadoran negotiator] Arturo Castria Hidalgo in Lima, Peru, to reach an agreement with mediator Jose Luis Bustamante on the date and place in which the mediations are to start, has said that former Honduran President Ramon Ernesto Cruz has criticized the mediation procedures. Batres told this station that reserve should surround this situation and that Ramon Ernesto Cruz would do better to keep silent, since otherwise he would be providing ammunition to the other side.

Batres and Castria Hidalgo will first meet in Panama, probably on Sunday or Monday, and will then travel together to Lima to meet with Bustamante on 18 January.

The Salvadoran and Honduran foreign ministers might go to Lima on 1 February or 1 April to meet with Bustamante. Bustamante has apparently accepted Lima for the mediation site. He will first have to go to Tegucigalpa and San Salvador to obtain all the information needed and then present his report to the OAS.

NICARAGUA

100 ARRESTED IN DISORDERS AFTER CHAMORRO FUNERAL

PA1313111Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 13 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] About 100 persons were arrested by the police following the outbreak of disorders at the end of the funeral of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal.

Although the Red Cross reported it had attended to 20 emergency cases, it has only been established that one National Guard private was killed in an incident near the Western Cemetery. The events surrounding the private's death are unclear at present.

The police seized Molotov cocktails that allegedly were to be used by demonstrators. The daily NOVEDADES was damaged by the mobs. At least 20 persons were arrested in the area surrounding the daily.

During the entire afternoon, police maintained close vigilance in the western part of the city and curbed all attempts to hold demonstrations. Warnings had been issued in the morning that the police would allow no more disorders after the wave of fires on Wednesday night.

At present, the police have not reported on the masterminds of the murder of newsman and opposition politician Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal. It is expected that the police authorities today will give detailed reports on the planning and execution of the assassination of the daily LA PRENSA director.

Managua Calm After Funeral

PA130203Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 003. GMT 13 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Calm is slowly returning to Managua after the turmoil which this city experienced as a result of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal's murder. An apparent calm exists after soldiers used tear gas to break up several small demonstrations in different parts of the city. The demonstrators damaged the buildings housing the commercial establishment known as "P del H" and the offices of the newspaper NOVEDADES. According to reports, this afternoon's disturbances outside the general cemetery resulted in four unidentified persons being wounded by gun fire.

It was also reported that approximately 20 persons had been arrested and that the police confiscated a dozen molotov bombs in various parts of the city. After the disturbances following the burial of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, the police are maintaining intense vigilance. Soldiers are patrolling in jeeps and cars with private license plates and the soldiers are armed with regulation weapons and anti-riot bombs [bombas].

From another source, it was reported that last night's disorders, which included arson and looting, left one person killed and five injured. The dead person was identified as Pedro Zapata Hernandez, 28 years old, an alleged demonstrator who was shot at from a Chevrolet car. Four persons were reported wounded, including Cesar Davila Lopez, Antonio Castillo Rodriguez, Luis Manuel Fajardo Ruis and Maria Teresa Aburto.

National Guard Officer Killed

PA130401Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0332 GMT 13 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The death of a member of the National Guard and seven persons wounded was the result of this afternoon's disorders, it was reported here tonight. The incidents took place near the cemetery in the city's west side after Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal's burial. The National Guard officer was identified as Juan Montalvan, who was shot in his left side. No one knows who shot him. He was taken by the Nicaraguan Red Cross to the military hospital where he died.

The wounded are: Rafael A. Velez, Maria Meza Matamoros, Francisco Aviles, Hugo Fonseca Pereira, Vilma Paguaga Centeno, Henry Meza Barrantes and Juan Jose Perez.

The disorder started when the people who went to the funeral left the cemetery for a demonstration. The police met them on their way to try to disperse them.

Calm was gradually returning tonight to Managua. However, military forces continue patrolling the city and bus service is only partially operating.

New Disturbances Reported

PA131518Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1505 GMT 13 Jan 78 PA

[Text] According to reports we have received directly from Managua, although violence in Managua abated last night early this morning there were disturbances in certain districts of the city.

In the Bolonia slum area, a boy was shot and wounded by a member of an army contingent patrolling the area. This news was confirmed by the Red Cross in Managua.

Managua is tense this morning. Special military vigilance is in effect in an effort to prevent the many disturbances which quieted down last night in Managua after the funeral of LA PRENSA director Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, who was murdered on Tuesday, from reoccurring.

The political prospects of the country are very uncertain. The Chamorro assassination unleashed 48 hours of looting and fires which caused about $7 million in damages.

CHAMORRO'S BROTHER CHALLENGES GOVERNMENT

PA1319345Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1851 GMT 13 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 13 Jan (EFE)--Xavier Chamorro, assistant director of LA PRENSA newspaper, said today he has possession of information revealing who ordered the murder of his brother, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. "If the government does not give the names of the true masterminds of the murder of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, the people will do so," Xavier Chamorro said.

Up until now, it is known that four persons were arrested and confessed their participation in the planning and execution of the murder. The names of the persons behind them are not known.

Xavier Chamorro said that many reports have reached LA PRENSA which reveal the names of those truly responsible for the newsman's death.

"We have enough documentation to disclose who the intellectual authors of the crime were. If the government does not do it, then LA PRENSA will," he emphasized. He said the newspaper will be provisionally directed by Pablo Antonio Cuadra, a poet and writer.

ALLEGED ASSASSIN CLAIMS HE WAS HIRED BY CUBAN

PA132139Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2131 GMT 13 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Pedro Ramos, a Cuban, paid 100,000 cordobas ($14,000) for the killing of opposition newsmen Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal. Silvio Pena Rivas, one of the murderers, made the above statement today to Managua's police chief Col Luis Ocon. The statement was heard by some 20 newsmen and broadcast by local radio stations.

Pedro Ramos, allegedly a naturalized U.S. citizen of Cuban origin, paid $14,000 for the assassination of politician and journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal.

Ramos is president of the Industrial Center of Hemotherapy, better known here as "Plasma Feresis." The firm used to purchase human blood to export it to the United States. Ramos, a doctor graduated in Cuba and expelled from that country in the wake of the Cuban revolution's victory, paid that sum to a group of four assassins who killed the Nicaraguan journalist early on Tuesday, 10 January.

This sensational disclosure was made by imprisoned Silvio Pena Rivas, 35, who received the money to carry out the assassination and who contracted the other criminals. According to Pena Rivas, Ramos contacted him in the commercial establishment "P del H" to propose to him the "business" of killing the director of LA PRESNA. Ramos is no longer in Nicaragua. He left the country before the crime was committed. By the time the country's high-ranking authorities had ordered that his departure and that of several other Cubans who work for Plasma Feresis be prevented, Ramos had already left the country.

Plasma Feresis no longer exists. The demonstrators who on Wednesday evening carried Chamorro's body to the offices of LA PRENSA set fire to that industrial plant. Managua's firemen managed to put out the fire, but a few hours later the demonstrators again set fire to the building, which this time was reduced to ashes.

The assassinated opposition journalist had attacked that business and had even claimed that President Anastasio Somoza was linked to it. Even as Chamorro Cardenal's body was being buried yesterday at 1325 (1925 GMT), the Plasma Feresis installation continued to smolder.

According to Pena Rivas, Harold Cedeno Aguirre, Silvio Vergara Zuniga and Domingo Acevedo Chavarria also participated in Chamorro's assassination. Acevedo Chavarria was one of those who shot the journalist while the latter was driving his car. The criminal testified that he contracted Silvio Vergara Zuniga, who in turn contracted a man named Francisco Chavarria, also known as Domingo Acevedo Chavarria. Pena Rivas insisted that he did not know the details of the crime because he only contracted Vergara Zuniga, who then hired the other assassins. Pena Rivas said that before the assassination he had given money to Vergara Zuniga on several occasions, estimating that he had given the latter some 45,000 cordobas in all $6,400). According to Pena Rivas, he had turned over to Ramos a part of the money which he had not given to the assassins, leaving it in an envelope marked "private" in the offices of Plasma Feresis.

When asked who else was implicated in the assassination, he did not respond, affirming that "I cannot make such a declaration just like that. I must get legal advice from a lawyer." In his declaration to police judge Col Luis Ocon, Pena Rivas admitted that he was "aware of the crime that was going to be committed." He also said that he had met Ramos at a beach on the Pacific side in early December. Later, on 15 December, Ramos spoke to him about the murder at his work place in Managua's P del H commercial establishment. The prisoner recalled that during a visit he paid to Ramos in his office at Plasma Feresis, the Cuban-American gave him the money for the execution of the crime.

Judge Ocon said he does not know whether the U.S. Government will be asked to extradite Ramos. Regarding this, he explained that the first judge of the capital's criminal district, where the trial will take place, will have to make that decision.

Meanwhile, Pedro Ramos Quiroz, the naturalized U.S. citizen of Cuban origin accused here of being the intellectual author of journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's assassination, today denied the charge. Ramos Quiroz has been in Miami since Monday, 9 January. This afternoon, he made exclusive statements by phone to the local radio station Radio Corporacion. According to Ramos Quiroz, the accusations made by Silvio Pena Rivas (who has implicated him in Chamorro's assassination) are "a fantasy and stupid."

MORE DETAILS ON CHAMORRO MURDER REVEALED

PA141859Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1813 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Silvio Rene Vega Zuniga, one of the persons hired to murder Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, today declared here that Domingo Acevedo Chavarria, a thug from the city of Leon, was the man who on the morning of 10 January fired a shotgun three times at the journalist and opposition political leader.

Vega Zuniga made this statement before police judge Col Luis Ocon and dozens of newsmen. He also confessed that he was the driver of the green Toyota occupied by Acevedo Chavarria, who stepped out of the car to sheet three times at Chamorro Cardenal when he tried to flee. Chamorro's car was rammed before the shooting. The journalist was on his way from his home to his daily LA PRENSA.

Following the assassination, Acevedo Chavarria and Vega Zuniga fled to the western city of Leon, but they were unable to use the same green Toyota because the car broke down. According to the prisoner, apparently Chamorro before dying accelerated his car and was able to hit the assassins' car from behind.

The assassins were able to flee in another car driven by Silvio Pena Rivas, the leader of the group of killers that participated in the murder of the journalist. They were allegedly paid by Pedro Ramos, a Cuban-American.

Vega Zuniga said he is sorry for having participated in the crime, which has shaken this country and has resulted in serious street disturbances this week. During his declarations, Vega Zuniga constantly cried. He looked nervous and worn out. His declarations were often interrupted because of the nervous crisis he is going through.

Cornelio Hueck Involved

PA1421102 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2011 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Silvio Rene Vega Zuniga goday gave details of the assassination on Tuesday of journalist and opposition leader Pedro Joaquin Chamorro to police judge Col Luis Ocon. The 30-year-old stockbroker tearfully said while in a nervous state that the group of thugs that committed the murder had followed their victim for 3 days before killing him.

The prisoner who made declarations for 2 and 1/2 hours said that the group had first tried to kill Chamorro Cardenal when he was leaving the Las Palmas Church in this capital but that they did not go ahead with their plan because of a series of circumstances at the Catholic church.

The assassins tried again on Monday, 9 January, when the journalist was taking some people to the Las Mercedes Airport, but again they were unable to commit the murder on that occasion.

On Tuesday, 10 January, Silvio Pena Rivas, the leader of the assassins allegedly paid by Pedro Ramos, a Cuban-American, warned: "This will be over today," and so it was. That day, three vehicles were parked near the residence of Dr Chamorro Cardenal in the Las Palmas suburb of this city. Vega Zuniga and a thug by the name of Domingo Acevedo Chavarria were in a green Totota. Acevedo Chavarria had a shotgun. A Nova vehicle was occupied by Silvio Pena Rivas, the leader of the group, and by Juan Ramon Cedeno. The third car, an Alfa-SUD owned by Hose Angel Blanco Aguilar--who apparently loaned the vehicle unaware of how it was to be used--was occupied by Harold Cedeno.

While they were waiting for Dr Chamorro Cardenal to leave the garage of his home in his automobile, Pena Rivas threatened Vega Zuniga by saying: "You better drive well. If you do not, I will kill your children."

Pena Rivas ordered that Dr Chamorro Cardenal's car be followed and passed in the city's old downtown area and that the journalist would then be shot. Vega Zuniga declared that during the developing events he tried to disobey orders and tried to ram Dr Chamorro's car before arriving at the isolated area so that people would notice what was going on, thereby preventing them from killing Chamorro. However, he said, he was unable to ram the car and the cars advanced four more blocks into the old downtown area.

The prisoner said that he finally rammed Dr Chamorro's car which was pushed to the right, an opportunity that he tried to use to pass the car and flee, but then Dr Chamorro made a sharp turn and crashed against the automobile of his assassins. In a matter of seconds, Domingo Acevedo Chavarria stepped out of the Toyota, complained strongly to Dr Chamorro and pointed the shotgun at him. "I turned my head in order not to see how they killed Dr Chamorro," sobbed Vega Zuniga.

The prisoner said that he heard the three shots that Acevedo Chavarria fired at Dr Chamorro who, before dying, accelerated his vehicle, crashing against his assassins' automobile which became useless as a result of the impact. However, Silvio Pena Rivas was traveling behind in another car. He picked up the other two men from the scene of the crime and took them to the city of Leon. The damaged green Toyota, which became the key lead in the assassination investigations, was left behind at the scene of the crime.

Vega Zuniga said that Silvio Pena Rivas did not give him anything although he had been promised 15,000 cordobas ($2,000) and a house. Vega Zuniga said he saw Silvio Pena Rivas give Acevedo Chavarria 3,500 cordobas ($500) while reminding him: "Now I have given you 10,000 cordobas."

Before going their separate ways, the leader of the gang told the others not to worry because nothing was going to happen to them. He added that in the event they were arrested they should not say anything because important persons such as Fausto Zelaya (a former president of the National Housing Bank) and Cornelio Hueck (the present Chamber of Deputies' Executive Board chairman), would appoint 20 or 30 attorneys for their defense if necessary.

This is the first time that persons at this level have been mentioned in this case. Their mention by Silvio Vega Zuniga has had a great impact in Nicaragua.

While the assassins of Dr Chamorro were making declarations, the legal and public relations office of the National Guard hastened to point out that the authorities are continuing the investigations "until the crime is completely clarified." This office also added that the authorities will help the judge in the search for new data and evidence that could be obtained from witnesses and by other legal means in the criminal process against whoever is found responsible for the crime.

Hueck Denies Involvement

PA152342Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1919 GMT 15 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 15 Jan (LATIN)--The president of the Chamber of Deputies, Cornelio Hueck, has threatened to "shoot" anyone who accuses him of being involved in the murder of journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, the newspaper LA PRENSA reported today. In an interview with Radio Exito, Hueck labeled as "false" the rumors which named him as the intellectual author of Chamorro's murder. "The person who has said that and comes to my office will be shot by me personally. I will not be slandered by anyone," he said. The interview was published today in LA PRENSA, the paper that Chamorro directed.

MILITARY CLOSES INVESTIGATIONS OF CHAMORRO CASE

PA140508Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0447 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[By Horacio Ruiz]

[Excerpts] Managua, 13 Jan (AFP)--Journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's assassination was shrouded tonight in the most complete mystery when at 1800 (2400 GMT) the army suddenly cancelled a scheduled meeting between the press and the four men accused of having committed the crime. Military information chief Col Aquiles Aranda told newsmen to go to the police headquarters in Managua, adding that as far as the military investigation goes, "the case has been closed."

A newspaper source said in turn that six Cubans working for Ramos at the Plasma Feresis concern today asked for asylum at an embassy because they were being pressured by authorities. Col Aranda refused to confirm or deny this report.

At the same time, according to an unconfirmed report, former congressional President Cornelio Hueck, with whom Chamorro had bitter confrontations, has been arrested by police who arrived in a helicopter at his San Martin Ranch on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, some 75 km southeast of Managua.

An unofficial report also said that the government had banned the departure from the country of ministers and vice ministers and directors of autonomous institutions who had been dismissed during the cabinet reorganization last December and whom Chamorro had bitterly criticized.

CHAMORRO FAMILY SAYS INVESTIGATION NOT THOROUGH

PA140212Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0043 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The military authorities that have been investigating the crime committed on 10 January against Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, an opposition politician and editor of the newspaper LA PRENSA, have not wanted to get to the bottom of things. This is the view that the family of the late public figure has stated in the following communique:

"The newspaper LA PRENSA and the Chamorro Barrios and Chamorro Cardenal families want Nicaraguan citizens to know that, as today's LA PRENSA reported, an effort has been made to throw a smokescreen over who is really responsible for the heinous crime committed against Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro."

The family's release adds: "The depositions that Silvio Pena Rivas made at the first police court, and were released only 60 hours later by the authorities, are contradictory in every single line and intend to place the blame on a foreigner who has already left the country."

The communique continues: "We feel that the authorities have not gotten and have not wanted to get to the bottom of things, but rest assured that nothing will remain hidden."

Dr Chamorro's family concludes: "The involvement of an American citizen in the crime compels the American Embassy to become involved [asumir las responsabilidades] no matter what may lie behind the heinous crime."

The Nicaraguan National Guard's legal and public relations office has not issued the promised communique revealing the details of the crime. At one of the two police courts in this capital, Silvio Pena Rivas earlier accused Cuban-American Pedro Ramos, who is currently in Miami, of paying about $14,000 for the slaying of Dr Chamorro Cardenal.

SOMOZA COMMENTS ON SANDINISM, HUMAN RIGHTS, CHAMORRO'S DEATH

PA150305Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2035 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Jan (EFE)--With U.S. political and economic support, Anastasio Somoza will continue in power until 1981, the Nicaraguan president himself told the Mexican newspaper UNO MAS UNO.

In an interview published today in this capital by the newspaper UNO MAS UNO, Somoza affirmed that he will leave power in 1981, that he will not seek reelection and that his son has no possibility of succeeding him.

The president voiced concern over the death of journalist Pedro J. Chamorro, who was assassinated last Tuesday in downtown Managua. Regarding the short-range consequences of Chamorro's assassination for his government, Somoza said that this incident may further gravate the unrest currently prevailing in his country.

"The last thing I would have expected was the death of one of the principal opposition leaders. Nonetheless, the country will continue its progress and I will seek a dialog with whomever wishes to hold one," he added.

According to Anastasio Somoza Debayle, heir to the dynasty that for 43 years has ruled Nicaragua as president, he has done many good things for his people.

Asked about accusations to the effect that human rights are violated in Nicaragua, the president said that under express orders from the government, those rights are respected in the country. Somoza strongly denied that there are political prisoners in Nicaragua. Those imprisoned in this country, he said, are common criminals.

Elsewhere in the interview, the UNO MAS UNO correspondent asked Somoza if Sandinism represents a latent threat to his government, to which the president answered negatively. "They do not threaten me politically. They are a threat to society because their group is made up of young and old men trained by the Cuban Government," he affirmed. Somoza said he has enough evidence to support the claim that the Sandinists receive money, arms and training from Fidel Castro's government. Somoza described Fidel Castro and communism as a threat to peace in Latin America.

SOMOZA TALKS TO NEWSMEN ON CHAMORRO CASE

PA140456Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0430 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 13 Jan (LATIN)--President Anastasio Somoza told a group of foreign newsmen tonight in Montelimar that he has no economic ties with the Plasma Feresis Company, except that the Somoza family leases the land and buildings which the company occupies. The question was asked because reports published abroad named him as stockholder in the company and because the president of the company, a U.S. naturalized citizen of Cuban origin named Pedro Ramos, was mentioned today as financing the murder of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

Ramos was named by Silvio Pena Rivas, who said that Ramos gave him 100,000 cordobas (just over $14,000) to plan Chamorro's murder. Ramos himself was interviewed by telephone tonight by a Managua radio station. He said Pena Rivas' charge "is completely absurd, a fiction," and that he does not even know him. Ramos said that his company has filed suit against Chamorro for libel and slander and it is illogical to have killed him while the trial was in progress. Ramos said that he went from Managua to Miami on Monday of this week. Concerning the possibility of returning to Nicaragua to prove his innocence, he said that he will not do so "due to the hysteria which exists against him in Managua after Pena Rivas' invention."

When one of the foreign newsmen asked Somoza his opinion about the charges made today against Ramos, he answered that he could not give his opinion, "particularly since it is not known whether or not Pena Rivas is telling the truth."

Somoza added that the investigations must continue and that Chamorro's assassination had come as "a complete surprise" to him. "The last thing I expected was that they would kill Pedro Joaquin Chamorro," he commented.

Somoza then described Chamorro as a sincere journalist who expressed his ideas openly and who "was a part of Nicaraguan life itself."

PURPORTED SOMOZA HEART PROBLEMS DENIED

PA1417417Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1729 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--A categorical denial was made today that President Anastasio Somoza has suffered new heart problems.

According to rumors circulating locally and internationally, General Somoza had again been hospitalized in the Managua Military Hospital because of pains in his chest. Nevertheless, the report has been completely denied and called "absolutely false." This was stated by the government press secretary, Rafael Cano, who added that President Somoza is at his Montelimar farm. At his summer home near Managua, the president "is resting after doing his customary physical exercise," the official source said.

Last night Somoza spoke with U.S. and other foreign newsmen at his farm.

The press secretary emphasized that the president's health is satisfactory and that on Tuesday next week he will hold another cabinet meeting. The meeting will be held at the military club in this capital and will include the presidents and managers of independent government agencies.

OPPOSITION UNION PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED

PA1503567Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Station interview by reporter Luz Maria Noli with Rafael Cordoba Rios, successor to Pedro Joaquin Chamorro as president of the Democratic Liberation Union at his home in Managua on 13 January--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Do you believe in the possibility that the Somoza regime, now with the Sandinist attacks and Chamorro's death, will promote an honest democratic opening in this country?

[Answer] One cannot ask the Devil to reform Hell. This is the answer.

[Question] Then there is no possibility, no hope?

[Answer] There is no possibility and no hope that the dynastic government of 43 years will reform itself. It is impossible because its natural constitution does not allow any reform or democratic opening. It can intensify its dictatorship, it can intensify its vices and genocides. In this country there have been genocides since the time of Sandino's death when 1,800 persons died in [words indistinct]. There was another genocide in the La India Mine, in the Coyol Hill, and El Rama where over 900 persons died. On January 22, I cannot remember the year, during Aguero's time, in the streets of Managua 380 persons died.

They were placed in trucks. Afterward, they put sawdust in the trucks because they could not wash away the blood. There is now another genocide in Nicaragua such as the Pancazan, of some 3 years ago, in which professionals, students and others died. Now, last year, we counted 650 peasants who disappeared. These are only the ones that have been reported. This year we already have 350 deaths. One cannot stop a system. It is an organization used to obtain food. The food for the Somoza regime is blood. This is why they burnt Plasma Feresis because it is an exploiter of Nicaraguan blood.

[Question] How long are you going to stand for this?

[Answer] This is circumstantial. In Nicaragua there has always been a rebellion. We are a heroic people who have maintained a constant and permanent rebellion. But because of international circumstances, the Somozas have always been very addicted to Washington and it has rewarded them. Perhaps now if Washington turns its back on them, we could put an end to it. We do not ask any country in the world to help us, just let us do our thing. Then Somoza would fall. We could ask a friend of Chamorro, someone like Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, to act as a friend. But we could not ask him to come and interfere in Nicaragua. We, alone, should solve Nicaraguan problems.

[Question] What possibilities do you see of Washington turning its back on Somoza as you just said?

[Answer] That is a little difficult, because there is an international-regional circumstance. In Central America, any political change in Nicaragua can affect El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. They are afraid of having a problem, and in spite of all the U.S. power, its millions of people and in spite of being the first nuclear power in the world, this could be a problem they could not solve. The U.S. is Somoza's main ally, I understand, because they fear that if Somoza falls in Central America there could develop a situation they could not control.

[Question] Do you believe that now with the opposition front and with the recent death of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro there could be any changes for the Nicaraguan people?

[Answer] The only change for the Nicaraguan people is to put an end to the Somoza regime. That is logical and we shall try to do it. The people of Nicaragua have no alternative but to end the Somoza regime and install a just, republican regime.

NEW DEFENSE MINISTER ASSUMES OFFICE

PA132224Y Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Jan 78 pp 1, 14 PA

[Text] The new incumbent of the Ministry of Defense, Gen Guillermo Noguera, received the post from his predecessor Gen Heberto Sanchez on Wednesday at 1130.

Before going into an analysis of the Ministry of Defense's programs and projects, General Sanchez introduced him to the personnel. General Nogurea visited each office and talked to the employees.

Through the ministry's public relations officer, Mr Sider Cisneros, the new minister of defense said that he would meet the press later, but that for the time being he was learning the operations of each department.

CASTRO MEETS WITH MEMBERS OF CHILEAN RADICAL PARTY

FL141640Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 14 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Council of State, has met with the members of the Chilean Radical Party delegation headed by its president, Anselmo Jule. Participating in the talks was Manuel Pineiro, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its American Department. During the talks, Chilean, Latin American and world political problems were discussed.

CASTRO MEETS WITH ANTONIO MACEO BRIGADE MEMBERS

FL141650Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 14 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State, held fraternal talks with the members of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, who have been visiting our country for the past several days at the invitation of the Cuban Institute for Friendship With Peoples. During the meeting, the brigade members told Fidel their experiences and way of life outside of the fatherland during all these years and explained their impressions of the talks held with leaders of the Cuban revolution and visits paid to historic places and areas of economic and social development. On the last day of their scheduled stay, the youths composing the Antonio Maceo Brigade toured the installations of the Havana fishing port and held talks with leaders of the National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation and a group of outstanding athletes.

MALMIERCA RECEIVES BULGARIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

FL141750Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has received Bulgarian First Deputy Foreign Minister Mariy Ivanov, who arrived in our country on 9 January at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry. During the talks, the two sides exchanged opinions on matters of common interest in international policy and discussed aspects of the fraternal and strong relations between Cuba and Bulgaria.

Agreement Signed

FL142230Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2136 GMT 14 Jan 78 FL

[Text] In a ceremony held at the Foreign Ministry, a cooperation agreement between the Cuban and Bulgarian foreign ministries was ratified. Signing the document were Rene Anillo and Mariy Ivanov, first deputy foreign ministers of Cuba and Bulgaria, respectively. Rene Anillo stated that with the signing of the agreement a new phase of the development of cooperation between the two ministries had been initiated and that the number of aspects in which the two organizations are preparing to work jointly has been defined more clearly and precisely.

For his part, Mariy Ivanov stated that the signing of the agreement will provide a better coordination of the politico-bilateral activity of the two countries as members of the socialist community and will make it possible to evaluate with greater efficiency the tasks that the two foreign ministries propose to undertake.

ROMANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ENDS VISIT, DEPARTS

FL141715Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 14 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The high level military delegation headed by Col Gen Ion Coman, minister of national defense of the Socialist Republic of Romania, yesterday paid a visit to the Gen Antonio Maceo School of Combined Arms, the Playa Giron Air Guard Brigade and the Emilio Barcenas Pier and Yuriy Gagarin Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] industrial enterprises. During the entire tour, the distinguished visitors were accompanied by Divisions Generals Julio Casas Regueiro and Francisco Cabrera Gonzalez, both FAR vice ministers and alternate members of the PCC Central Committee, Col Demetrio Montseny Villa, chief of the FAR Ministry Foreign Relations Directorate, and Romanian Ambassador to Cuba Nicolae Moraru.

At the Gen Antonio Maceo School of Combined Arms, Col Jose Palacios Suarez, chief of the educational center, welcomed Col Gen Ion Coman. The visitors were given a detailed explanation of the different specialties taught there and toured several installations. At the proving grounds, the cadets gave demonstrations on how to combat incendiary agents and tanks. The Romanian defense minister praised the students for the demonstrations and wrote in the book of visitors that he was profoundly impressed by the high quality of study material base of the center and the scientific and practical content of the instructional process.

At the Playa Giron Air Guard Brigade, the Romanian high-level military delegation, accompanied by Col Ruben Martinez Fuentes of the Air Force and Lt Col Elias (Naldez), toured the Hall of Combat History, the museum and other installations of the unit. Subsequently, several combat aircraft took off in honor of the visitors and two of them conducted a mock air battle. At the air brigade, Col Gen Ion Coman also priased the high degree of combat-readiness and technical preparation he had observed in the unit.

At the FAR industrial enterprises, the Romanian military delegation and those accompanying it made brief tours of shops and laboratories and were given a warm welcome by chiefs, officers, soldiers and civilian workers of the two centers. At all places visited, Col Gen Ion Coman was presented gifts related with the activities being conducted in them and, in turn, delivered objects characteristic of his country as a memento of the visit.

Departure Reported

FL142158Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2133 GMT 14 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Col Gen Ion Coman, national defense minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania, was seen off with military honors at the Jose Marti international airport by Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, first vice minister-chief of general staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] and member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State. Also present at the airport to bid farewell to the distinguished visitor and the high-level military delegation accompanying him were FAR Vice Ministers Division Generals Abelardo Colome Ibarra, member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State, Francisco Cabrera and Julio Casas, both alternate members of the PCC Central Committee. Prior to boarding the aircraft that took him home, Col Gen Ion Coman was rendered the corresponding military honors. Also present in the farewell ceremony for the Romanian national defense minister was Nicolae Moraru, ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Romania to our country.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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